DRILL CUTTINGS, DRILL FLUIDS, AND MUDS DISCHARGE MODELING FOR

BURGER F WELL

DRILLED BY THE DRILL SHIP NOBLE DISCOVERER

LOCATED OFFSHORE CHUKCHI SEA, ALASKA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The primary goal of this environmental numeric modeling was to simulate the dispersion and deposition of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds discharges from the drilling operation by the drill ship Noble Discoverer at the prospect well site Burger F located offshore Chukchi Sea using the Offshore Operators Committee Mud and Produced Water Discharge Model (OOC Model). The prospect well Burger F is located in block **6714** area of Posey. The depth of water is **45.0** meters (m). The dispersion and deposition numeric simulations were performed for the six discrete drilling intervals divided into two discharge scenarios: sea floor (**013**) and sea surface (**001**). The sea floor discharges occur from the drilling intervals **1**, **2**, and **3** and the sea surface discharges occur from the drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6**. The sea floor discharges occur at **1.83** m (or **6** feet) above the sea floor and the sea surface discharges occur at **6.71** m (or **22** feet) below the sea surface. Moreover, approximately **2**,**427** barrels (bbls) of the water based muds will be discharged at the end of the drilling of the well from the rig's surface pits at a rate of **970.80** bbls per hour (bbls/hour) for **2.5** hours. These constitute discharges described in Permit No.: **AKG-28-8100** as discharge **013** (Muds, Cuttings, and Cements at the Seafloor) and discharge **001** (Water-Based Drilling Fluids and Drill Cuttings).

The cements, water based dill cuttings, and drill fluids mass discharge rate (effluent) for drilling intervals **1**, **2**, and **3** for the sea floor (**013**) discharges are: **68.83**, **116.30**, and **86.70** bbls/hour, respectively. These sediments will be pumped away via use of a pump at the sea floor. A flexible hose suction pipe will intake a large volume of sea water to move the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids from the seafloor and will discharge from a **12.0** inch internal diameter discharge pipe at **14,000** bbls/hour. This yields into **203.4**, **120.4**, and **161.5** pre-dilution factors before discharging into the ambient for the drilling intervals **1**, **2**, and **3**, respectively. The discharge pipe of the seafloor pump is located at **1.83** m (or **6** feet) above the seafloor and oriented horizontally aligned with the direction of the current, which is to the east.

The water based dill cuttings and drill fluids mass discharge rate (effluent) for drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6** for the sea surface (**001**) discharges are: **148.38**, **69.10**, and **21.40** bbls/hour, respectively. Sea water at a rate of **10.83** bbls/hour will be added to the drill cuttings and drill fluids before discharging into the ambient during the drilling of the bottom hole section i.e., the drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6** for the sea surface (**001**) discharge scenario. This yields into **1.1**, **1.2**, and **1.5** pre-dilution factors before discharging into the ambient for the drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6**, respectively. The pre-diluted water based dill cuttings and drill fluids discharge rate (effluent) for drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6** for the sea surface (**001**) discharges are: **159.21**, **79.93**, and **32.23** bbls/hour, respectively.

The outer diameter of the pipe for the sea surface discharge is **15.0** inches. It runs through the main deck of the drill rig Noble Discoverer and comes out on the bottom of the ship. The drilling draft varies from **6.71** m to **7.68** m approximately. Therefore, the surface discharges occur at a depth between **6.71** m and **7.68** m from the sea surface. The internal pipe diameter of **14.25** inches was used for modeling the sea surface discharge scenario based on a **0.75** inches of total pipe wall thickness. The discharge pipe is oriented vertically downward with respect to the sea surface and discharges at approximately **6.71** m below the sea surface for modeling the sea surface discharge scenario.

The water based drill fluids for the top hole section i.e., the drilling intervals **1**, **2**, and **3**, for the sea floor (**013**) discharge scenario is composed of primarily sea water, which includes **30** pounds (lbs.) of bentonite, **0.5** lbs. of xanthan gum, and **0.03** lbs. of Gelex bentonite extender in each barrel of sea water.

The water based drill fluids for the bottom hole section i.e., the drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6**, for the sea surface (**001**) discharge scenario is composed of primarily sodium chloride (NaCl) brine system. Sodium chloride brine systems are single-salt solutions of sodium chloride and water. Saturated sodium chloride brine has a density of **1,198** kilograms per cubic meter (kg/m^3) or **10** lbs. per gallon (lb/gal) and used as a base drill fluids for the bottom hole section. Barite at the rate of **1.413** lb/gal is added to the base drill fluids to increase the weight of the drill fluids to **1,318.13** kg/m^3 (or **11** lb/gal) for drilling the interval **04** of the bottom hole section. Moreover, barite at

the rate of **2.83** lb/gal is added to the base drill fluids to increase the weight of the drill fluids to **1,438** kg/m^3 (or **12** lb/gal) for drilling the intervals **05** and **06** of the bottom hole section.

The dispersion and deposition numeric simulations both for the sea floor (**013**) and the sea surface (**001**) discharge scenarios were performed for two sets of currents speed: mean currents and maximum currents. This provides a sensitivity analysis of the numeric model results to the model input parameter: currents speed. The current speed of **7** centimeters per second (cm/sec) was used as the mean value and **25** cm/sec was used as the maximum value in the OOC model.

The solids deposition on the seabed from the effluents discharged during the six discrete drilling intervals and the rig's surface pits were compiled using the Graphical User Interface Discharge Offshore (GUIDO, version **7.3**) software for the OOC model yielding the total solids deposition loading and total thickness distribution on the seabed from the drilling operation by the drill ship Noble Discoverer at the Burger F well site.

The OOC model predicted total amount of solids loading on the sea floor as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds at the mean currents are: (i) **100** kg/m^2 at **50** m, (ii) **10** kg/m^2 at **140** m, (iii) **1** kg/m^2 at **400** m, (iv) **0.1** kg/m^2 at **1,100** m, and (v) **0.01** kg/m^2 at **2,700** m distances approximately from the source towards the direction of the current.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **1000**-, **100**-, **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 at the mean currents are: **0.108**, **0.321**, **0.653**, **4.492**, **17.631**, and **135.616** hectares (ha), respectively.

The OOC model predicted maximum deposit thickness at the mean currents is **196.3** cm, which occurs at **10** m to the east and **30** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **110** m to the east from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **130** m x **40** m rectangle area (or **0.519** ha) at the mean currents. The sea floor areas affected by deposit thickness larger than **100**-, **10**-, and **1**-cm are: **0.102**, **0.195**, and **0.519** ha, respectively.

The OOC model predicted total amount of solids loading on the sea floor as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds at the maximum currents are: (i) **100** kg/m^2 at **80** m, (ii) **10** kg/m^2 at **295** m, (iii) **1** kg/m^2 at **900** m, and (iv) **0.1** kg/m^2 at **2,000** m distances approximately from the source towards the direction of the current.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **1000**-, **100**-, **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 at the maximum currents are: **0.105**, **0.338**, **1.287**, **3.661**, **16.893**, and **129.572** ha, respectively.

The OOC model predicted maximum deposit thickness at the maximum currents is **158.1** cm, which occurs at **10** m to the east and **30** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **260** m to the east from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **270** m x **40** m rectangle area (or **1.073** ha) at the maximum currents. The sea floor areas affected by deposit thickness larger than **100**-, **10**-, and **1**-cm are: **0.097**, **0.275**, and **1.073** ha, respectively.

The OOC model predicted fate and transport of the TSS concentrations show that the TSS concentrations attain a value of less than **0.1** mg/l at: **5** to **24** hours after the cessation of the discharge during the mean currents and **4** to **6** hours after the cessation of the discharge during the maximum currents. The maximum duration to attain less than **0.1** mg/l of TSS concentration is **24** hours after the cessation of the discharge.

The impacts on the ambient from the drilling operations at the Burger F well in terms of solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is limited to an area: **0.519** ha at the mean currents and **1.073** ha at the maximum currents. The

impacts at **100** m from the discharge source are: solids deposit thickness in the range of **1** to **3** cm at the mean currents and **3** to **10** cm at the maximum currents on the seabed. The impacts on the ambient water in terms of the TSS concentrations at **100** m from the discharge source are: **6**.**4** to **219**.**1** mg/l at the mean currents and **15**.**5** to **265**.**7** mg/l at the maximum currents. The impacts at **300** m from the source are: solids deposit thickness of less than **1** cm on the seabed both for the mean and maximum currents. The impacts on the ambient water in terms of the TSS concentrations at **300** m from the discharge source are: **1**.**4** to **101**.**3** mg/l at the mean currents and **4**.**6** to **96**.**5** mg/l at the maximum currents. The overall impacts on the ambient from the drilling operations at the Burger F well by the drill ship Noble Discoverer can be classified as low.

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bbls	Barrels
bbls/hour	Barrels per hour
cc	Cubic centimeter
cm	Centimeters
cm/sec	Centimeters per second
°C	Degrees Celsius
ft	Feet
g	Grams
g/cc	Grams per cubic centimeter
gal	Gallons
h	Hours
ha	Hectares
kg	Kilograms
kg/m^2	Kilograms per square meter
kg/m^3	Kilograms per cubic meter
km	Kilometers
lb	Pounds
lb/gal	Pounds per gallon
m	Meters
m/s	Meters per second
mg	Milligrams
mg/l	Milligrams per liter
psu	Practical salinity scale unit
sec	Seconds
TSS	Total suspended solids

SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The numeric simulations for the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds discharges from the drilling operation by the drill ship Noble Discoverer at the prospect well site Burger F located offshore Chukchi Sea were performed using the Offshore Operators Committee Mud and Produced Water Discharge Model (OOC Model). The prospect well Burger F is located in block **6714** area of Posey. The depth of water is **45.0** meters (m). The location of the well Burger F, within the burger field offshore the Chukchi Sea is presented in **Figure 1-1**. The Burger F well coordinates: easting-northing and latitude-longitude are presented in **Table 1-1**. The dispersion and deposition numeric simulations were performed for the six discrete drilling intervals divided into two discharge scenarios: sea floor (**013**) and sea surface (**001**). The sea floor discharges occur from the drilling intervals **1**, **2**, and **3** and the sea surface discharges occur from the drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6**. The sea floor discharges occur at **1.83** m (or **6** feet) above the sea floor and the sea surface discharges occur at **6.71** m (or **22** feet) below the sea surface. Moreover, approximately **2**,**427** barrels (bbls) of the water based muds will be discharged at the end of the drilling of the well from the rig's surface pits at a rate of **970.80** bbls per hour (bbls/hour) for **2.5** hours. These constitute discharges described in Permit no.: **AKG-28-8100** as discharge **013** (Muds, Cuttings, and Cements at the Seafloor) and discharge **001** (Water-Based Drilling Fluids and Drill Cuttings).

The dispersion and deposition numeric simulations both for the sea floor (**013**) and the sea surface (**001**) discharge scenarios as listed below were performed for two sets of currents speed: mean currents and maximum currents. This provides a sensitivity analysis of the numeric model results to the model input parameter: currents speed. The modeled discharge scenarios are:

- **Discharge Scenario 1a**: **Sea Floor Discharges (013) at Mean Currents**
  Muds, cuttings, and cements discharges prior to the installation of the riser near the sea floor.

- **Discharge Scenario 1b: Sea Surface Discharges (001) at Mean Currents**
  Water based drill fluids and drill cuttings discharges after the installation of the riser near the sea surface. Moreover, approximately **2**,**427** bbls of water based muds will be discharged at the end of the drilling of the well from the rig's surface pits at a rate of **970.80** bbls/hour for **2.5** hours.

- **Discharge Scenario 2a**: **Sea Floor Discharges (013) at Maximum Currents**
  Muds, cuttings, and cements discharges prior to the installation of the riser near the sea floor.

- **Discharge Scenario 2b: Sea Surface Discharges (001) at Maximum Currents**
  Water based drill fluids and drill cuttings discharges after the installation of the riser near the sea surface. Moreover, approximately **2**,**427** bbls of water based muds will be discharged at the end of the drilling of the well from the rig's surface pits at a rate of **970.80** bbls/hour for **2.5** hours.

The drilling operations for the Burger F well would be conducted by the drill ship Noble Discoverer. The drilling operation for each discharge scenario (sea floor and sea surface) would be conducted in three different intervals yielding a total of six (**2** discharge scenarios × **3** drilling intervals per scenario) drilling intervals as presented in **Table 1-2**.

Figure 1-1: Location of the Burger Field
Prospect Well: Burger F

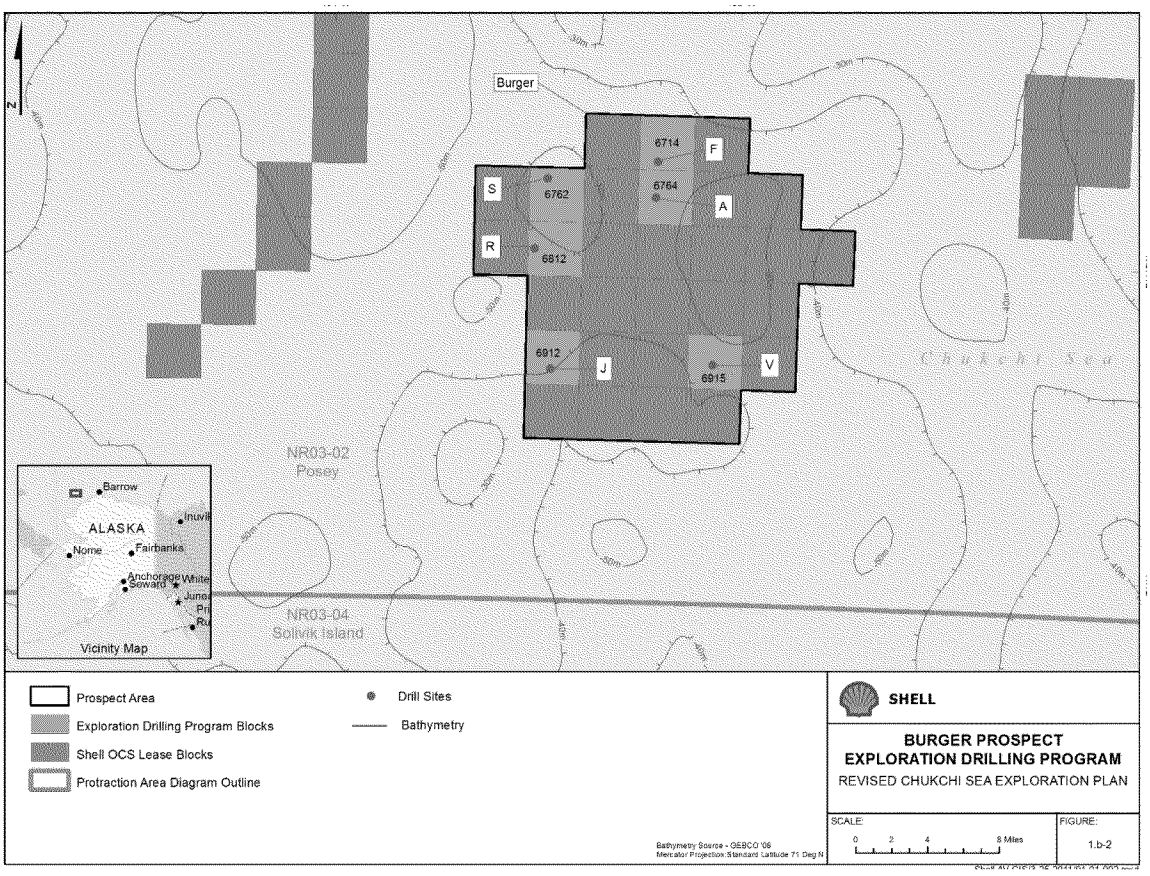

Table 1-1: Location of the Prospect Well Burger F

Prospect Well	Area	Block	Coordinates				Water Depth (m)
			Easting (m)	Northing (m)	Latitude	Longitude	
Burger F	Posey	6714	564,063.30	7,915,956.94	N71° 20' 13.96"	W163° 12' 21.75"	45.0

Table **1**-**2** presents the detailed drilling operation and the effluent data for the prospect well Burger F. This table presents the following data: discharge scenarios, drilling intervals, durations of drilling, footage drilled, volume of total water based drill cuttings including washout, volume of total water based drill fluids, volume of total effluent, effluent (or cuttings mass) discharge rate, volume of seawater added, volume of total pre-diluted effluent, and the pre-diluted effluent discharge rate. The estimated volumes of the water based drill cuttings including fifty percent (**50** %) washout and the drill fluids for the six drilling intervals vary from a low of **604.75** bbls to a high of **4,542.86** bbls. The durations of drilling vary from a low of **5.2** hours to a high of **66.0** hours. The effluent or cuttings mass discharge rates vary from a low of **21.40** to a high of **148.38** bbls/hour. Cement is discharged only for the sea floor discharge scenario during the drilling intervals **2** and **3**. It is included in the volume of the drill cuttings. Moreover, approximately **2,427** bbls of the water based muds will be discharged at the end of the drilling of the well from the rig's surface pits at a rate of **970.80** bbls/hour for **2.5** hours.

Table 1-2: Drilling Operation for Burger F
DISCHARGE SCENARIOS, DRILLING INTERVALS, VOLUMES OF DRILL CUTTINGS, AND EFFLUENT DISCHARGE RATES

Discharge Scenario	Drilling Intervals	Durations of Drilling or Pumping	Footage Drilled	Total Water Based Drill Cuttings including 50% Washout[1]	Total Water Based Drill Fluids[2]	Total Effluent (water based drill cuttings + drill fluids)	Effluent Discharge Rate	Seawater Added to the Effluent	Total Pre-diluted Effluent (water based drill cuttings + drill fluids + seawater)	Pre-diluted Effluent Discharge Rate
		(Hours)	(feet)	(bbls)	(bbls)	(bbls)	(bbls/hour)	(bbls)	(bbls)	(bbls/hour)
Sea Floor	1	66.00	40	3,702.86	840.00	4,542.86	68.83	919,457.14	924,000.00	14000.00
	2	5.20	123	232.37	372.37	604.75	116.30	72,195.25	72,800.00	14000.00
	3	34.40	1,087	1,071.15	1,911.15	2,982.31	86.70	478,617.69	481,600.00	14000.00
Sea Surface	4	23.30	1,760	576.19	2,880.95	3,457.14	148.38	252.34	3,709.48	159.21
	5	29.00	2,082	333.99	1,669.94	2,003.93	69.10	314.07	2,318.00	79.93
	6	37.20	1,718	132.69	663.45	796.14	21.40	402.88	1,199.02	32.23
	Discharge from Rig's Surface Pits	2.50	-	-	2,427.00	-	970.80	-	2,427.00	970.80

Notes to Table 1-2:

1: Cement is discharged during the drilling intervals **2** and **3**. It is included in the volume of drill cuttings.
2: Volume of the water based muds discharges from the rig's surface pits.

The cements, water based dill cuttings, and drill fluids mass discharge rate (effluent) for drilling intervals **1**, **2**, and **3** for the sea floor (**013**) discharges are: **68.83**, **116.30**, and **86.70** bbls/hour, respectively. These sediments will be pumped away via use of a pump at the sea floor. A flexible hose suction pipe will intake a large volume of sea water to move the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids from the seafloor and will discharge from a **12.0** inch internal diameter discharge pipe at **14,000** bbls/hour. This yields into **203.4**, **120.4**, and **161.5** pre-dilution factors before discharging into the ambient for the drilling intervals **1**, **2**, and **3**, respectively. The discharge pipe of the seafloor pump is located at **1.83** m (or **6** feet) above the seafloor and oriented horizontally aligned with the direction of the current, which is to the east.

The water based dill cuttings and drill fluids mass discharge rate (effluent) for drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6** for the sea surface (**001**) discharges are: **148.38**, **69.10**, and **21.40** bbls/hour, respectively. Sea water at a rate of **10.83** bbls/hour will be added to the drill cuttings and drill fluids before discharging into the ambient during the drilling of the bottom hole section i.e., the drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6** for the sea surface (**001**) discharge scenario. This

yields into **1.1**, **1.2**, and **1.5** pre-dilution factors before discharging into the ambient for the drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6**, respectively. The pre-diluted water based dill cuttings and drill fluids discharge rate (effluent) for drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6** for the sea surface (**001**) discharges are: **159.21**, **79.93**, and **32.23** bbls/hour, respectively.

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The water based drill fluids for the bottom hole section i.e., the drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6**, for the sea surface (**001**) discharge scenario is composed of primarily sodium chloride (NaCl) brine system. Sodium chloride brine systems are single-salt solutions of sodium chloride and water. Saturated sodium chloride brine has a density of **1,198** kilograms per cubic meter (kg/m^3) or **10** lbs. per gallon (lb/gal) and used as a base drill fluids for the bottom hole section. Barite at the rate of **1.413** lb/gal is added to the base drill fluids to increase the weight of the drill fluids to **1,318.13** kg/m^3 (or **11** lb/gal) for drilling the interval **04** of the bottom hole section. Moreover, barite at the rate of **2.83** lb/gal is added to the base drill fluids to increase the weight of the drill fluids to **1,438** kg/m^3 (or **12** lb/gal) for drilling the intervals **05** and **06** of the bottom hole section.

1.1 The OOC Model

The Offshore Operators Committee (OOC), a consortium of companies operating in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, sponsored development of a model to predict the fate of the effluents discharged offshore (Brandsma and Smith, **1999** and Alam and Brandsma, **2013**). The OOC model predicts the fate of drilling mud, cuttings, or produced water discharged from a single pipe. The effluent may contain up to **12** classes of particulates. Particulates may be solids or oil droplets. The model predicts the concentrations of particulates and liquid effluents in the water column and the deposition of solid particles on the sea floor. There are no restrictions on the nature of the receiving environment simulated by the OOC model. The ambient bathymetry may be variable or constant depth. Currents and hydrography may change spatially and temporally. Sea state may change temporally. The model couples an integral plume model of initial dilution and dynamic spreading with a far-field cloud-tracking model.

The OOC model has been validated against laboratory and field data (O'Reilly et al., **1989**; Smith et al, **1994**; and Smith et al., **2004**). The OOC model is maintained with the aid of an automated validation system. The validation system produces an HTML report documenting the results of simulating **681** experiments in twenty-five laboratory studies and four field studies (Brandsma, **2004**), including a field study of cuttings deposition on the sea floor. The model has been used by several major oil companies around the globe, universities, MMS, and EPA. The model has been applied to offshore Brazil, Gulf of Mexico, Nigeria, North Sea, and Pacific Ocean.

The Graphical User Interface Discharge Offshore (GUIDO), version **7.3** software (Alam and Brandsma, **2013**) for the OOC model performs pre- and post-processing for the FORTRAN based OOC model. It allows the user to prepare inputs in convenient systems of units, checks and, if necessary, adjusts inputs for consistency and submits the inputs for execution by the OOC model, in interactive or batch mode.

1.2 Settling Velocity Distribution for Solids in Drill Cuttings and Fluids

The solids in drilling discharges have a range of particle sizes (Brandsma and Smith, **1999**). As a result, the settling behavior of the effluent solids is described by a distribution of settling velocities ratherthan a single settling velocity. The Report and User Guide (Brandsma and Smith, **1999**) of the OOC Model presents examples of solids fall velocity data sets for the water-based mud, water-based mud cuttings, and oil-based mud cuttings. The Report and User Guide states that these data sets can be used for modeling studies in cases where no site specific data are available on the fall velocity distribution of the effluent solids.

The dispersion and deposition numeric simulations of thecements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids discharges for both the sea floor and sea surface discharge scenarios were performed using the fall velocity classes for the water based mud cuttings presented in the OOC model Report and User Guide (Brandsma and Smith, **1999**) for the prospect well Burger F. The volume fractions of the fall velocity classes were adjusted for the effluent for each drilling intervals based on the actual volume of the total cuttingssolids present in the volumes of the total effluent. The fall velocity classes for the water based mud cuttings from the Report and User Guide is presented in **Table 1-3**. The actual value of the density for the solids was used in the numeric simulations for each drilling intervals.

The dispersion and deposition numeric simulations of thewater based muds discharges from the rig's surface pits were performed using the fall velocity classes for the water based mud presented in the OOC model Report and User Guide (Brandsma and Smith, **1999**) for the prospect well Burger F. The volume fractions of the fall velocity classes were adjusted based on the actual volume of the totalsolids such as barite present in the volume of the total effluent. The fall velocity classes for the water based mud from the Report and User Guide is presented in **Table 1-4**. The actual value of the density for the solids was used in the numeric modeling of the water based muds discharges from the rig's surface pits.

The fall velocities for different sediment particle sizes and classes are presented in**Table 1-5** (Keith Dyer, **1986**).

The ambient and the effluent characteristics used in the OOC models for the Burger F well are described in detailed in **Sections 2** and **3**. The modeling domain is described in **Section 4**. The modeling results at the mean and maximum currents are described in details in **Sections 5** and **6. Section 7** presents the sensitivity analysis**. Section 8** describes the summary and conclusion. **Section 9** lists the references cited in this technical report.

Table 1-3: Fall Velocity Classes for Water Based Mud Cuttings (Brandsma and Smith, 1999)

Class	Density (g/cc)	Volume Fraction	Fall Velocity (feet/s)	Fall Velocity (cm/s)
1	2.65	0.04272	0.000004430	0.0001350264
2	2.65	0.03204	0.000055300	0.0016855440
3	2.65	0.03738	0.000716000	0.0218236800
4	2.65	0.01602	0.007638000	0.2328062400
5	2.65	0.01068	0.047480000	1.4471904000
6	2.65	0.09612	0.131600000	4.0111680000
7	2.65	0.08544	0.321400000	9.7962720000
8	2.65	0.08010	0.443500000	13.5178800000
9	2.65	0.13350	0.852200000	25.9750560000

Table 1-4: Fall Velocity Classes for Water Based Mud (Brandsma and Smith, 1999)

Class	Density	Volume Fraction	Fall Velocity	
	(g/cc)		(feet/s)	(cm/s)
1	3.377000	0.000530000	3.68000E-02	1.1216640000
2	3.377000	0.002110000	1.40000E-02	0.4267200000
3	3.377000	0.010160000	2.70000E-03	0.0822960000
4	3.377000	0.010160000	2.10000E-03	0.0640080000
5	3.377000	0.007000000	1.68000E-03	0.0512064000
6	3.377000	0.007000000	1.43000E-03	0.0435864000
7	3.377000	0.005280000	9.85000E-04	0.0300228000
8	3.377000	0.002640000	4.85000E-04	0.0147828000
9	3.377000	0.004220000	2.00000E-04	0.0060960000
10	3.377000	0.003700000	9.00000E-05	0.0027432000

Table 1-5: Fall Velocities for Different Sediment Particle Size and Classes (Keith Dyer, 1986)

Sediment Size Class	Particle Size (mm)	Fall Velocity (cm/s)
		Keith Dyer (1986)
Chunks	> 2.0	65
Sand	0.062 - 2.0	32
Coarse Silt	0.016 - 0.062	0.32
Fine Silt	0.004 - 0.016	0.027
Clay	< 0.004	< 0.01

SECTION 2.0 AMBIENT CHARACTERISTICS

The OOC model was used for the numeric simulations of the dispersion and deposition of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds discharges from the prospect well Burger F located offshore Chukchi Sea. The required model input data for the ambient are described in this section.

2.1 DEPTH OF WATER

The ambient water characteristics data set presented in **Table 2-1** for the planned drilling period was used for the dispersion and deposition numeric simulations of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds discharges using the OOC model for both the sea floor and sea surface discharge scenarios. The ambient water depth at the Burger F well site is **45.0** m. The planned drilling period is within the open water season of July thru October.

2.2 TEMPERATURE AND SALINITY

The stratification of the ambient temperature and salinity for the open water seasonis presented in **Figures 2-1** and **2-2**, respectively. The temperature of the ambient water varies from **4** degrees Celsius (°C) at the surface stratum to - **0.5** °C at the bottom stratum, with a significant stratification occurring at **15** m depth. The salinity of the ambient water varies from **30** Practical Salinity Scale Unit (psu) at the surface stratum to **32** psu at the bottom stratum.

Table 2-1: Ambient Water Characteristics for the Burger Field, for the planned drilling period

Water Depth	Temperature	Salinity	Mean Current		Maximum Current	
			Speed	Direction (from True North)	Speed	Direction (from True North)
m	°C	psu	cm/s	°T	cm/s	°T
0.0	4.00	30.0	7.0	90	25.0	90
15.0	3.50	30.5	7.0	90	25.0	90
20.0	-0.25	31.5	7.0	90	25.0	90
43.9-45.7	-0.50	32.0	7.0	90	25.0	90

2.3 CURRENT SPEED

The report "Physical Oceanographic Measurements in the Klondike and Burger Survey Areas of the Chukchi Sea: **2008** and **2009**" (Figures **2** and **3**, Weingartner and Danielson, **2010**) for the year **2008** states the following: mean current speeds within the Herald and Barrow Canyons are swift (**25** centimeters per second (cm/s)), more moderate in the Central Channel (**10** cm/s), and generally < **5** cm/s elsewhere. The prospect well Burger F is located in **71**° N and **163**° W. It can be seen from Figure **3** (Weingartner and Danielson, **2010**) that the mean flow vectors (blue arrows) in the vicinity of **71**° N and **163**° W are approximately in the range of **3** cm/s to **10** cm/s.

Therefore, the current speed of **7** cm/sec is used in the model as the average value. The current speed of **25** cm/sec is used as the maximum value in the OOC model. The currents turn eastward to enter the Barrow Canyon at **71**° N (Ref: Page **4**, Physical oceanographic measurements in the Klondike and Burger prospects of the Chukchi Sea: **2008** and **2009**). The current speed is distributed uniformly with the depth with a prevailing direction of flow to the east for the planned drilling period in the OOC model.

2.4 WINDS SPEED AND WAVE HEIGHT

The wind speed during the open water season steadily increases from July through October as presented in**Figure 2-3**. The approximate values for the **50**-percentile rank wind speeds for July, August, September, and October are **6.8**, **7.8**, **9.5**, and **10.3** meters per second (m/s), respectively. The tentative drilling period for Burger F is beginning of August to mid-September. The average value for **50**-percentile rank wind speeds for the month of August and September i.e., **8.7** m/s was used for the Burger F well.

The wave height during the open water season also steadily increases from July through October as presented in **Figure 2-4**. The approximate values for the **50**-percentile rank wave heights for July, August, September, and October are **1.2**, **1.4**, **1.8**, and **1.9** m, respectively. The average value for **50**-percentile rank wave height for the month of August and September i.e., **1.6** m was used for the Burger F well.

Figure 2-1: Ambient temperature for open water season, Burger Field, Chukchi Sea

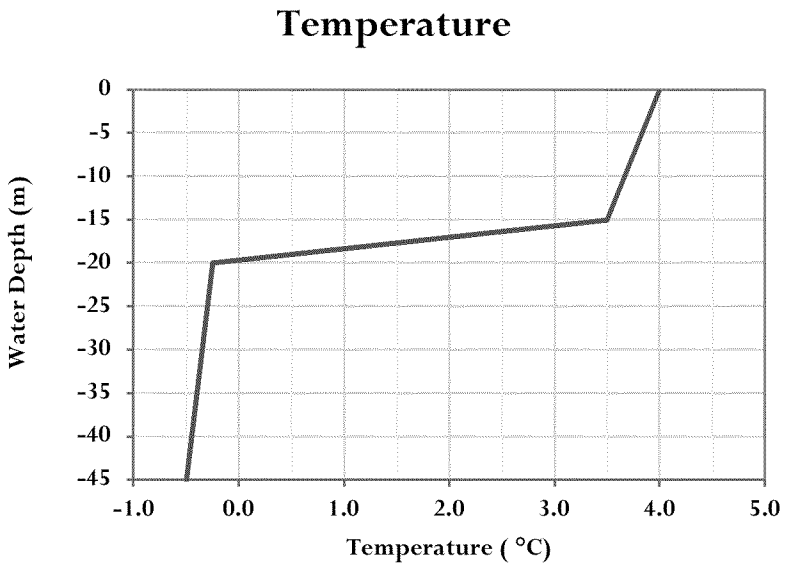


Figure 2-2: Ambient salinity for open water season, Burger Field, Chukchi Sea

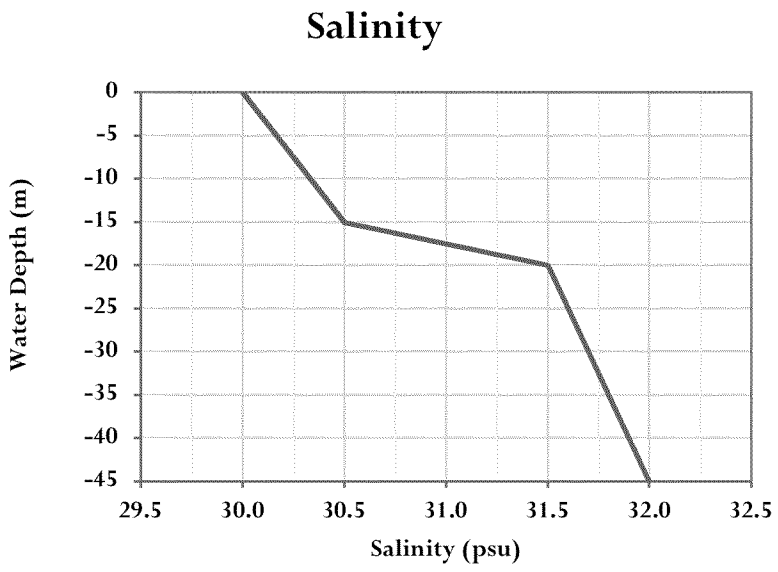


Figure 2-3: Wind speed for open water season, Burger Field, Chukchi Sea

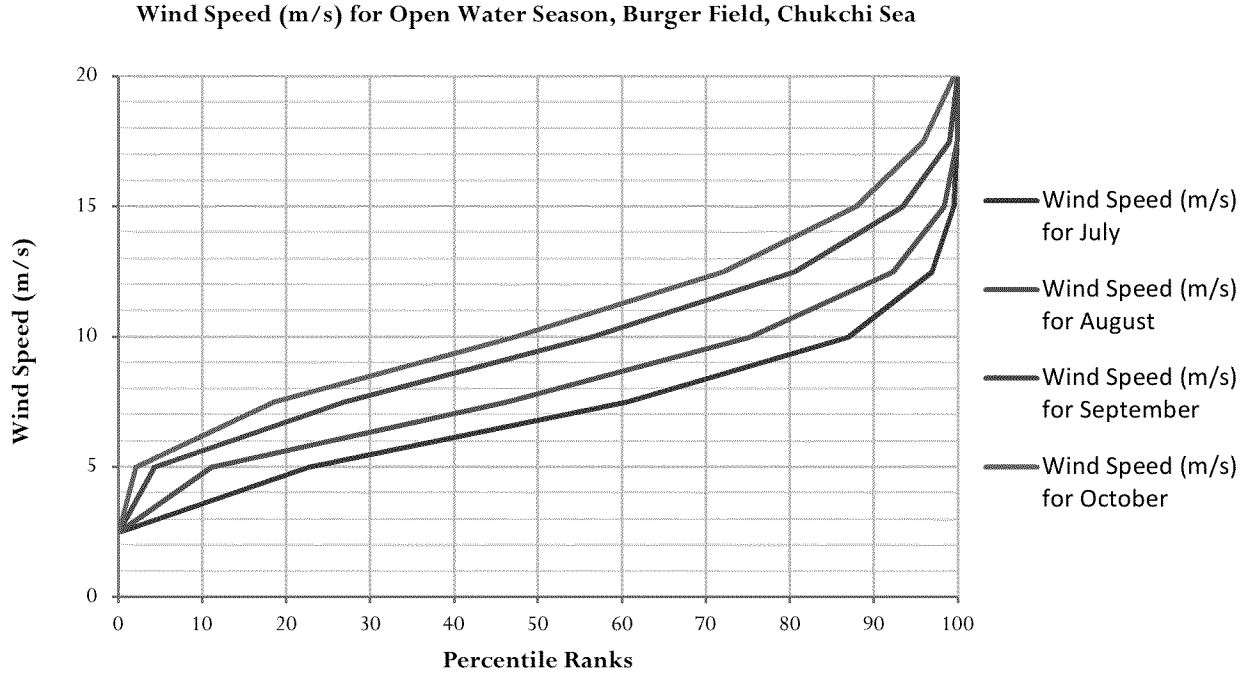
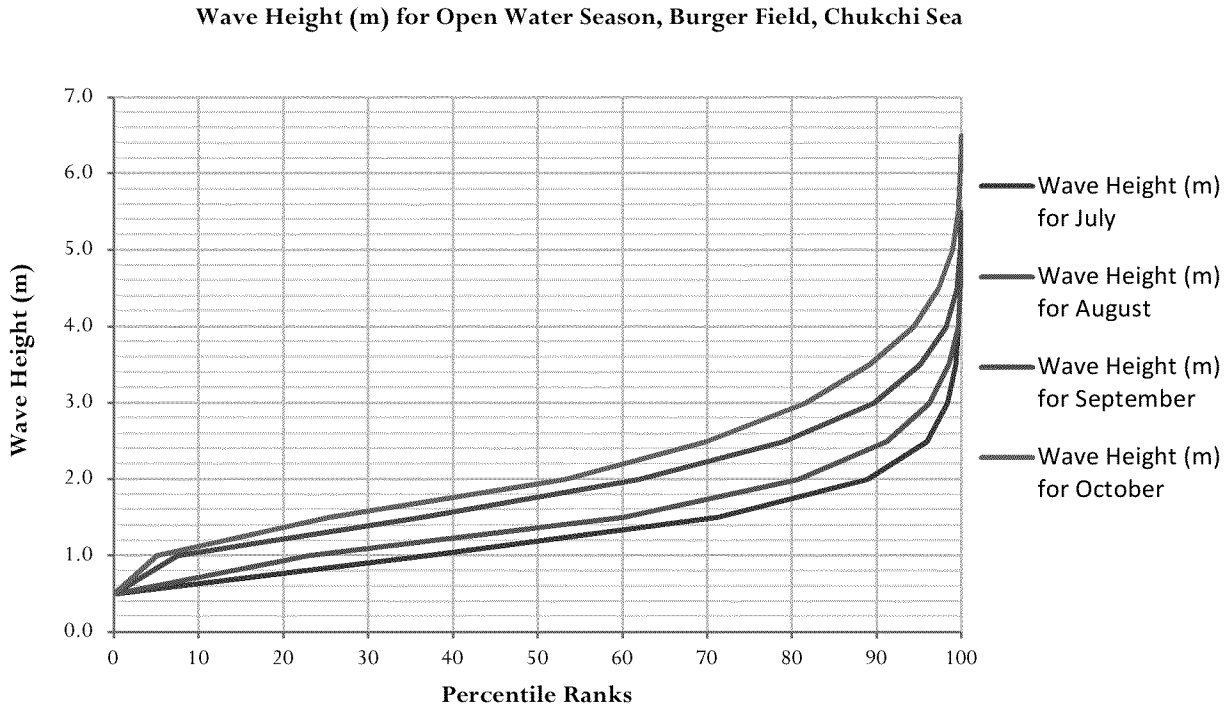


Figure 2-4: Wave height for open water season, Burger Field, Chukchi Sea



SECTION 3.0 EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTICS

The OOC model was used for the numeric simulations for the dispersion and deposition of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds discharges from the drilling operation at the prospect well Burger F located offshore Chukchi Sea. The required model input data for the effluent are described in this section.

3.1 DISCHARGE SCENARIOS

The dispersion and deposition numeric simulations both for the sea floor (**013**) and the sea surface (**001**) discharge scenarios as listed below were performed for two sets of currents speed: mean currents and maximum currents. This provides a sensitivity analysis of the numeric model results to the model input parameter: currents speed. The modeled discharge scenarios are:

- **Discharge Scenario 1a**: **Sea Floor Discharges (013) at Mean Currents**
  Muds, cuttings, and cements discharges prior to the installation of the riser near the sea floor.

- **Discharge Scenario 1b: Sea Surface Discharges (001) at Mean Currents**
  Water based drill fluids and drill cuttings discharges after the installation of the riser near the sea surface. Moreover, approximately **2,427** bbls of water based muds will be discharged at the end of the drilling of the well from the rig's surface pits at a rate of **970.80** bbls/hour for **2.5** hours.

- **Discharge Scenario 2a**: **Sea Floor Discharges (013) at Maximum Currents**
  Muds, cuttings, and cements discharges prior to the installation of the riser near the sea floor.

- **Discharge Scenario 2b: Sea Surface Discharges (001) at Maximum Currents**
  Water based drill fluids and drill cuttings discharges after the installation of the riser near the sea surface. Moreover, approximately **2,427** bbls of water based muds will be discharged at the end of the drilling of the well from the rig's surface pits at a rate of **970.80** bbls/hour for **2.5** hours

3.2 DRILLING INTERVALS , DRILLING DURATIONS , AND EFFLUENT DISCHARGE RATES

The drilling operation for the Burger F well would be conducted by the drill ship Noble Discoverer. The drilling operation for each discharge scenario (sea floor and sea surface) would be conducted in three different intervals yielding a total of six (**2** discharge scenarios × **3** drilling intervals per scenario) drilling intervals. Moreover, approximately **2,427** bbls of the water based muds will be discharged at the end of the drilling of the well from the rig's surface pits at a rate of **970.80** barrels (bbls) per hour for **2.5** hours.

The effluent characteristics from the drilling operation are presented in details in **Table 3-1** for each of the six drilling intervals and the rig's surface pits for the prospect well Burger F. This table presents the following data: discharge scenarios, drilling intervals, durations of drilling, footage drilled, volume of total water based drill cuttings including washout, volume of total water based drill fluids, volume of total effluent, effluent (or cuttings mass) discharge rate, volume of seawater added, volume of total pre-diluted effluent, and the pre-diluted effluent discharge rate. The estimated volumes of the water based drill cuttings including fifty percent (**50** %) washout and the drill fluids for the six drilling intervals vary from a low of **604.75** bbls to a high of **4,542.86** bbls. The durations of drilling vary from a low of **5.2** hours to a high of **66.0** hours. The effluent or cuttings mass discharge rates vary from a low of **21.40** to a high of **148.38** bbls/hour. Cement is discharged only for the sea floor discharge scenario during the drilling intervals **2** and **3**. It is included in the volume of the drill cuttings.

Table 3-1: Drilling Operation for Burger F
DISCHARGE SCENARIOS, DRILLING INTERVALS, DURATIONS OF DRILLING AND EFFLUENT DISCHARGE RATES

Discharge Scenario	Drilling Intervals	Durations of Drilling or Pumping	Footage Drilled	Total Water Based Drill Cuttings including 50% Washout[1]	Total Water Based Drill Fluids[2]	Total Effluent (water based drill cuttings + drill fluids)	Effluent Discharge Rate	Seawater Added to the Effluent	Total Pre-diluted Effluent (water based drill cuttings + drill fluids + seawater)	Pre-diluted Effluent Discharge Rate
		(Hours)	(feet)	(bbls)	(bbls)	(bbls)	(bbls/hour)	(bbls)	(bbls)	(bbls/hour)
Sea Floor	1	66.00	40	3,702.86	840.00	4,542.86	68.83	919,457.14	924,000.00	14000.00
	2	5.20	123	232.37	372.37	604.75	116.30	72,195.25	72,800.00	14000.00
	3	34.40	1,087	1,071.15	1,911.15	2,982.31	86.70	478,617.69	481,600.00	14000.00
Sea Surface	4	23.30	1,760	576.19	2,880.95	3,457.14	148.38	252.34	3,709.48	159.21
	5	29.00	2,082	333.99	1,669.94	2,003.93	69.10	314.07	2,318.00	79.93
	6	37.20	1,718	132.69	663.45	796.14	21.40	402.88	1,199.02	32.23
	Discharge from Rig's Surface Pits	2.50	-	-	2,427.00	-	970.80	-	2,427.00	970.80

Notes to Table 3-1:

1: Cement is discharged during the drilling intervals **2** and **3**. It is included in the volume of drill cuttings.
2: Volume of the water based muds discharges from the rig's surface pits.

The water based drill fluids for the top hole section i.e., the drilling intervals **1**, **2**, and **3**, for the sea floor (**013**) discharge scenario is composed of primarily sea water, which includes **30** lbs. of bentonite, **0.5** lbs. of xanthan gum, and **0.03** lbs. of Gelex bentonite extender in each barrel of sea water.

The water based drill fluids for the bottom hole section i.e., the drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6**, for the sea surface (**001**) discharge scenario is composed of primarily sodium chloride (NaCl) brine system. Sodium chloride brine systems are single-salt solutions of sodium chloride and water. Saturated sodium chloride brine has a density of **1,198** kg/m^3 (or **10** lb/gal) and used as a base drill fluids for the bottom hole section. Barite at the rate of **1.413** lb/gal is added to the base drill fluids to increase the weight of the drill fluids to **1,318.13** kg/m^3 (or **11** lb/gal) for drilling the interval **04** of the bottom hole section. Moreover, barite at the rate of **2.83** lb/gal is added to the base drill fluids to increase the weight of the drill fluids to **1,438** kg/m^3 (or **12** lb/gal) for drilling the intervals **05** and **06** of the bottom hole section.

3.3 Discharge Pipe Size and Height

A pump will be used at the sea floor during the drilling of the top hole section i.e., the drilling intervals **1**, **2**, and **3** for the sea floor (**013**) discharges. A flexible hose suction pipe will intake a large volume of sea water to move the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids from the seafloor and will discharge from a **12.0** inch internal diameter discharge pipe at **14,000** bbls/hour. The discharge pipe of the seafloor pump is located at **1.83** m (or **6** feet) above the seafloor and oriented horizontally aligned with the direction of the current, which is to the east.

The outer diameter of the pipe for the sea surface discharge is **15.0** inches. It runs through the main deck of the drill rig Noble Discoverer and comes out on the bottom of the ship. The internal pipe diameter of **14.25** inches was used for modeling the surface discharge scenario based on a **0.75** inches of total pipe wall thickness. The drilling draft varies from **6.71** m to **7.68** m approximately. Therefore, the surface discharges occur at a depth between **6.71** m and **7.68** m from the sea surface. The discharge pipe is oriented vertically downward with respect to the sea surface and discharges at approximately **6.71** m below the sea surface for modeling the sea surface discharge scenario.

3.4 Fall Velocity Classes for Water Based Drill Cuttings

The dispersion and deposition numeric simulations of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids discharges for both the sea floor and sea surface discharge scenarios were performed using the fall velocity classes for the water based mud cuttings presented in the OOC model Report and User Guide (Brandsma and Smith, **1999**) for the prospect well Burger F. The volume fractions of the fall velocity classes were adjusted for the effluent classes for each drilling intervals based on the actual volume of the total cuttings solids present in the effluent. The fall velocity classes and volume fractions for the water based drill cuttings used for the Burger F well is presented in **Table 3-2**. The solids density varies from **2.65** grams per cubic centimeter (g/cc) to **3.07** g/cc, depending on the quantities of drill cuttings, bentonite, and barite present in the effluent.

3.5 Fall Velocity Classes for Water Based Muds

The dispersion and deposition numeric simulation of the water based muds discharges from the rig's surface pits was performed using the fall velocity classes for the water-based mud presented in the OOC model Report and User Guide (Brandsma and Smith, **1999**) for the prospect well Burger F. The volume fractions of the fall velocity classes were adjusted based on the actual volume of the total solids namely barite present in the effluent. The fall velocity classes and volume fractions for the water based muds used for the Burger F well is presented in **Table 3-3**. The actual value of the density for barite (**4.1** g/cc) was used in the numeric modeling.

Table 3-2: Fall Velocity Classes and Volume Fractions for Water Based Drill Cuttings, Burger F

Well ID	Sediment Class in Drill Cuttings	Solids Density	Estimated Particle Diameter	Fall Velocity	Volume Fractions For Drilling Intervals					
		(g/cc)	micro meter (µm)	(cm/s)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Burger F	1	Varies from 2.65 to 3.07	1	0.0001350264	0.0003229	0.0002686	0.0001882	0.0149921	0.0162852	0.0125080
	2		4	0.0016855440	0.0002422	0.0002014	0.0001412	0.0112441	0.0122139	0.0093810
	3		15	0.0218236800	0.0002826	0.0002350	0.0001647	0.0131181	0.0142496	0.0109445
	4		50	0.2328062400	0.0001211	0.0001007	0.0000706	0.0056221	0.0061070	0.0046905
	5		125	1.4471904000	0.0000807	0.0000671	0.0000471	0.0037480	0.0040713	0.0031270
	6		250	4.0111680000	0.0007266	0.0006043	0.0004235	0.0337323	0.0366417	0.0281431
	7		500	9.7962720000	0.0006459	0.0005372	0.0003764	0.0299843	0.0325704	0.0250161
	8		1000	13.5178800000	0.0006055	0.0005036	0.0003529	0.0281103	0.0305348	0.0234526
	9		3600	25.9750560000	0.0010092	0.0008393	0.0005881	0.0468504	0.0508913	0.0390876

Table 3-3: Fall Velocity Classes and Volume Fractions for Water Based Drilling Fluids, Burger F

Well ID	Sediment Class in Drilling Fluids	Solids Density	Estimated Particle Diameter	Fall Velocity	Volume Fractions
		(g/cc)	micro meter (µm)	(cm/s)	Discharge from Rig's Surface Pit
Burger F	1	4.1	75.0	1.121664	0.00082876183
	2		50.0	0.426720	0.00329941031
	3		20.0	0.082296	0.01588720795
	4		18.0	0.064008	0.01588720795
	5		16.0	0.051206	0.01094591099
	6		15.0	0.043586	0.01094591099
	7		12.5	0.030023	0.00825634429
	8		8.0	0.014783	0.00412817214
	9		5.0	0.006096	0.00659882062
	10		3.5	0.002743	0.00578569581

3.6 Effluent Densities

The sea water density was computed using the equation of state presented by Crowley (Crowley, **1986**). The computations for the solids density, solids volume fractions, and effluent bulk density for the water based drill cuttings and the water based muds for the prospect well Burger F are presented in **Tables 3-4a** and **3-4b**.

Density of sea water at the surface = **1**,**023**.**80** kg/m^3.
Density of sea water at the bottom = **1**,**025**.**77** kg/m^3
Density of drill cuttings = **2**,**650**.**00** kg/m^3.
Density of drilling fluid for drilling intervals **01**, **02**, and **03** (top hole section) = **1**,**076**.**13** kg/m^3.
Density of drilling fluid for drilling interval **04** (bottom hole section) = **1**,**318**.**13** kg/m^3.
Density of drilling fluid for drilling intervals **05** and **06** (bottom hole section) = **1**,**437**.**87** kg/m^3.

Table 3-4a: Computations of Solids Density and Solids Volume Fractions for Burger F

Drilling Interval	Drill Fluids				Total Cuttings Solids[1]				Total Solids Mass	Total Solids Volume	Solids Density		Volume Fraction of Solids in Effluent
	Density	Volume		Mass	Density	Volume		Mass					
	kg/m^3	bbls	m^3	kg	kg/m^3	bbls	m^3	kg	kg	m^3	kg/m^3	g/cc	
1	1,076.18	840	134	143,724	2,650.00	3,703	589	1,560,074	1,571,305	593.03	2,649.64	2.65	0.00403683
2	1,076.18	372	59	63,713	2,650.00	232	37	97,903	102,881	38.86	2,647.54	2.65	0.00335738
3	1,076.18	1,911	304	326,998	2,650.00	1,071	170	451,295	476,847	180.13	2,647.27	2.65	0.00235251
4	1,318.13	2,881	458	603,749	2,650.00	576	92	242,758	320,311	110.52	2,898.16	2.90	0.18740171
5	1,437.87	1,670	265	381,754	2,650.00	334	53	140,714	230,588	75.02	3,073.68	3.07	0.20356527
6	1,437.87	663	105	151,667	2,650.00	133	21	55,904	91,611	29.80	3,073.68	3.07	0.15635049
Rig's Surface Pits	1,198.30	2,227	354	424,203	4,100.00	200	32	130,618	130,618	31.86	4,100.00	4.10	0.0825634

Note to Table 3-4a:

1: The water based muds discharged from the rig's surface pits contains barite solids and the corresponding density, volume, and mass presented above under "Total Cuttings Solids" are for barite and not for sea floorcuttings.

Table 3-4b: Computations of Effluent Bulk Density for Burger F

Drilling Interval	Drill Fluids				Total Cuttings Solids [1]				Sea Water				Computation of Density of Effluent (Bulk Density)			
	Density	Volume		Mass	Density	Volume		Mass	Density	Volume		Mass	Total Mass	Total Volume	Bulk Density	
	kg/m^3	bbls	m^3	kg	kg/m^3	bbls	m^3	kg	kg/m^3	bbls	m^3	kg	kg	m^3	kg/m^3	lbs/gal
1	1,076.18	840	134	143,724	2,650.00	3,703	589	1,560,074	1,025.77	919,457	146,182	149,948,589	151,652,387	146,904	1,032.32	8.62
2	1,076.18	372	59	63,713	2,650.00	232	37	97,903	1,025.77	72,195	11,478	11,773,878	11,935,494	11,574	1,031.21	8.61
3	1,076.18	1,911	304	326,998	2,650.00	1,071	170	451,295	1,025.77	478,618	76,094	78,054,804	78,833,097	76,568	1,029.58	8.59
4	1,318.13	2,881	458	603,749	2,650.00	576	92	242,758	1,023.80	252	40	41,074	887,581	590	1,504.99	12.56
5	1,437.87	1,670	265	381,754	2,650.00	334	53	140,714	1,023.80	314	50	51,122	573,590	369	1,556.42	12.99
6	1,437.87	663	105	151,667	2,650.00	133	21	55,904	1,023.80	403	64	65,577	273,148	191	1,432.88	11.96
Rig's Surface Pits	1,198.30	2,227	354	424,203	4,100.00	200	32	130,618	-	-	-	-	554,821	386	1,437.87	12.00

Note to Table 3-4b:

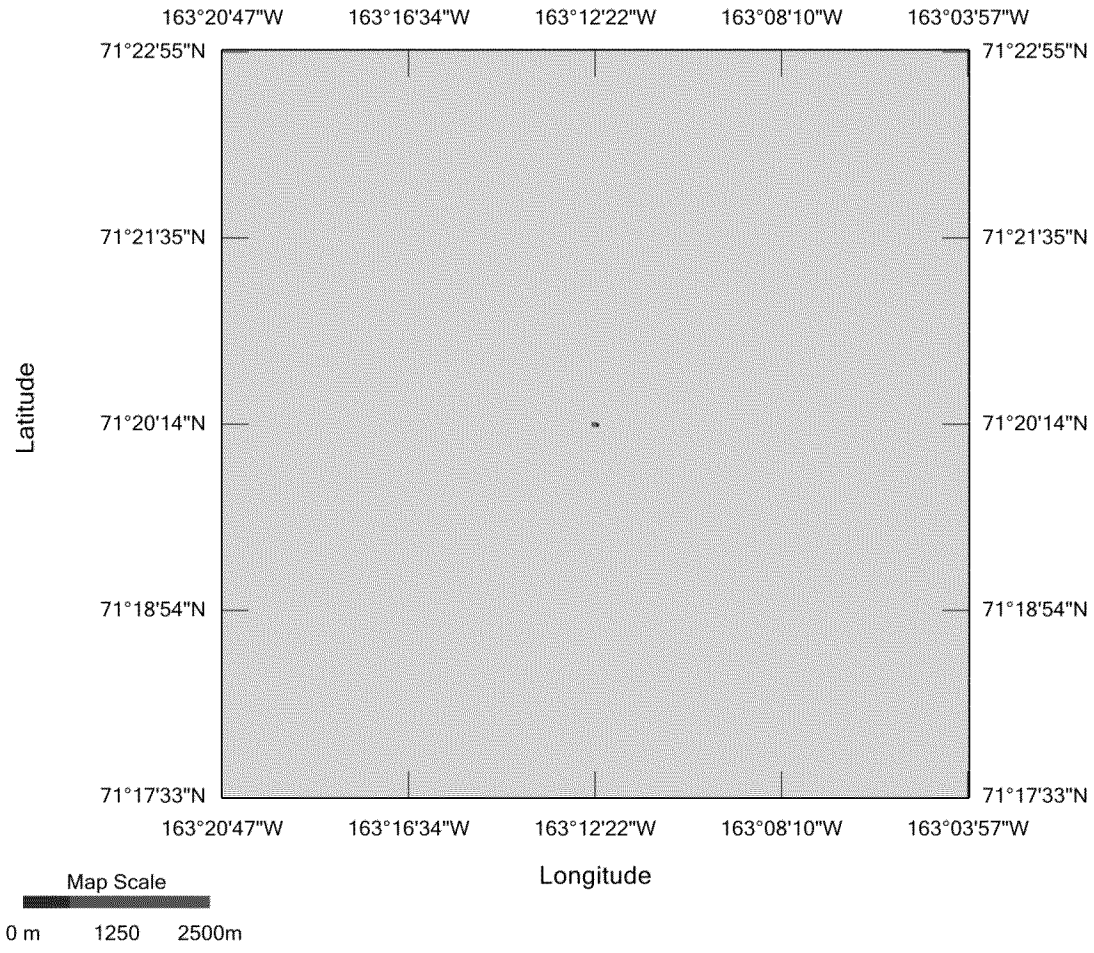
1: The water based muds discharged from the rig's surface pits contains barite solids and the corresponding density, volume, and mass presented above under "Total Cuttings Solids" are for barite and not for sea floor cuttings.

SECTION 4.0 MODEL DOMAIN

The dispersion and deposition numeric simulations of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds discharges for both the sea floor and sea surface discharge scenarios were performed using the OOC model as described in **Section 1**.

The model domain extends **5,000** m or **5.0** kilometers (km) in all directions from the discharge source. The model consists of **500** cells in the west-east direction and **500** cells in the north-south direction as well. Each cell is a **20** m × **20** m square. The well is located at the center of the model domain shown by a gray dot in **Figure 4-1**.

Figure 4-1: Model domain for the prospect well Burger F



SECTION 5.0 DISPERSION AND DEPOSITION MODELING – MEAN CURRENTS

The dispersion and deposition numeric simulations of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids discharges from the drilling operation at the Burger F well site for both the sea floor **(D013)** and sea surface **(D001)** discharge scenarios at the mean currents were performed using the OOC model. The numeric simulations were carried out for the six drillings intervals for the actual drilling durations: **66.0**, **5.2**, **34.4**, **23.3**, **29.0**, and **37.2** hours as presented in **Table 5-1**. Moreover, numeric simulation was also carried out for the surface discharge of the water based muds at the end of the drilling of the well from the rig's surface pits at a rate of **970.80** bbls/hour for **2.5** hours. A **360**-second model time step (Δt) was used for the computer simulations of all discharges listed in Table **5-1**. The solids deposition on the seabed from the below listed discharges from the six discrete drilling intervals and the rig's surface pits were compiled using the GUIDO **7** for the OOC model yielding the total solids deposition loading and thickness distribution on the seabed from the drilling operation at theBurger F well site.

Table 5-1: Total Simulation Time, Model Time Step, and Discharge Rates for Burger F

Well ID	Discharge Scenario	Drilling Intervals	Durations of Drilling (Discharge)		The OOC Numeric Model Simulation			Depth of Water	Depth of Discharge	Effluent (Cuttings + Drill Fluids) Mass Discharge Rate	Pre-diluted Effluent Discharge Rate
					Total Simulation Time	Model Time Step (Δt)	Count of Total Model Steps				
			Hours	Seconds	Seconds	Seconds		m	m	bbls/hour	bbls/hour
Burger F	Sea Floor	1	66.00	237,600	237,600	360	660	45.00	43.17	68.83	14,000
		2	5.20	18,720	18,720	360	52	45.00	43.17	116.30	14,000
		3	34.40	123,840	123,840	360	344	45.00	43.17	86.70	14,000
	Sea Surface	4	23.30	83,880	83,880	360	233	45.00	6.71	148.38	159.21
		5	29.00	104,400	104,400	360	290	45.00	6.71	69.10	79.93
		6	37.20	133,920	133,920	360	372	45.00	6.71	21.40	32.23
		Rig's Surface Pits	2.50	9,000	9,000	360	25	45.00	6.71	970.80	970.80

The OOC model predictions for the dispersion and deposition of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds in the near-field and far-field receiving water are presented in this technical report by the following effluent characteristics:

- Trajectory and shape of the discharge plume
- Total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in milligrams per liter (mg/l) in the water column
- Amount of deposition of the discharged solids in kilograms per square meter (kg/m^2) on the seabed
- Spatial extent of deposition (i.e., solids thickness distribution) in centimeter (cm) of the discharged solids on the seabed

5.1 Model Results for Sea Floor Discharge Scenario – Drilling Interval 01

Trajectory and Shape of the Discharge Plume

The trajectory of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 5-1**. The depth of water is **45.0** m and the discharge occurs at a depth of **43.17** m from a **12.0** inches internal diameter discharge pipe of the sea floor pump at **14,000** bbls/hour. A flexible hose suction pipe of this sea floor pump moves the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids from the drill strings and discharges at **1.83** m (or **6** feet) above the seafloor. The discharge pipe is oriented horizontally aligned with the direction of the current, which is to the east. Therefore, the heavier discharge plume attempts to shoot horizontally as seen in Figure **5-1** and travels to the east to a distance approximately **0.35** m only from the discharge location before collapsing onto the sea floor due to the proximity of the plume near the sea floor. The shape and width of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 5-2**. The width of the plume is approximately **0.35** m at a distance **0.35** m from the discharge location. The solid lines present the outer boundaries and dotted line presents the center line of the discharge plume in Figures **5-1** and **5-2**.

Figure 5-1: Trajectory of the discharge plume at mean currents, Drilling Interval 01

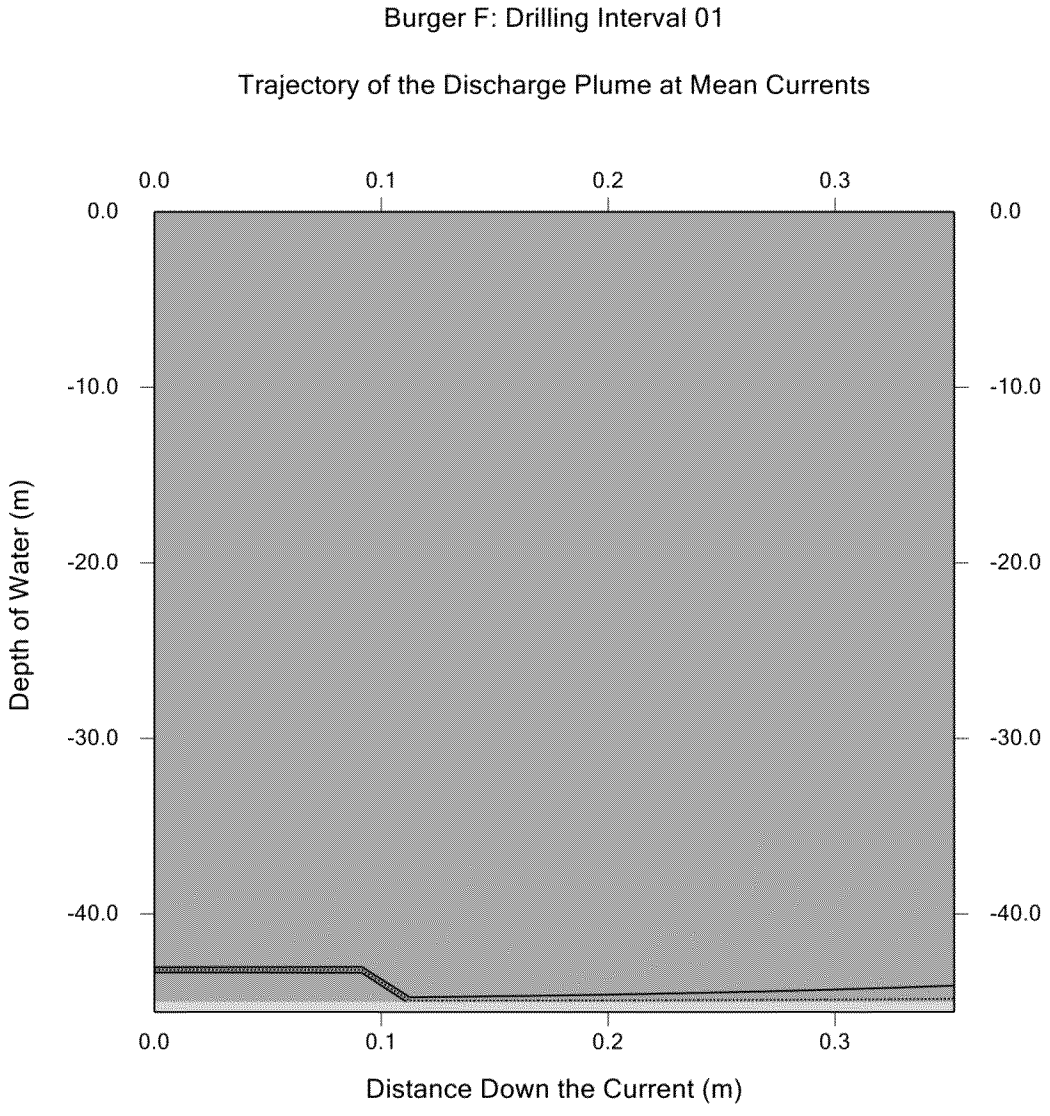
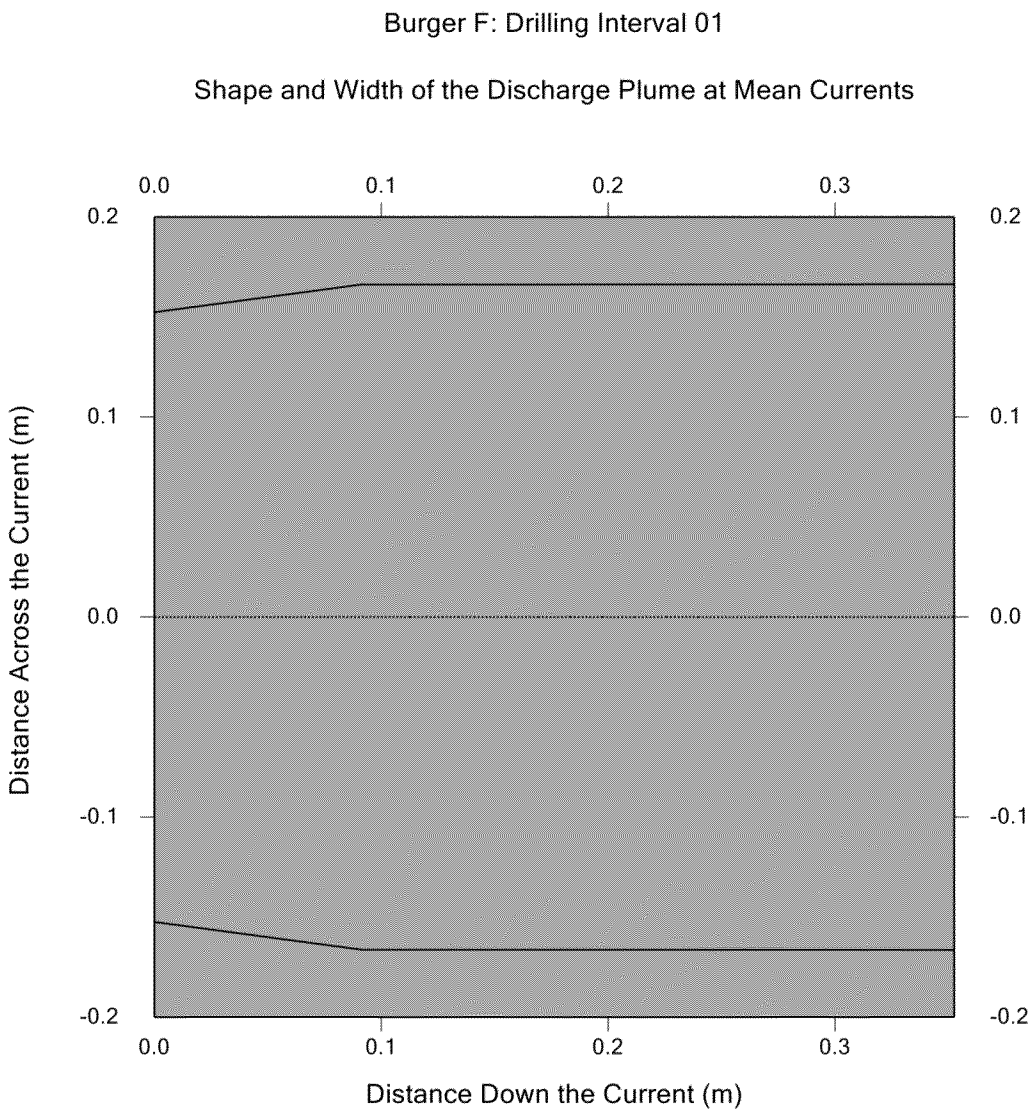


Figure 5-2: Shape and width of the discharge plume at mean currents, Drilling Interval 01

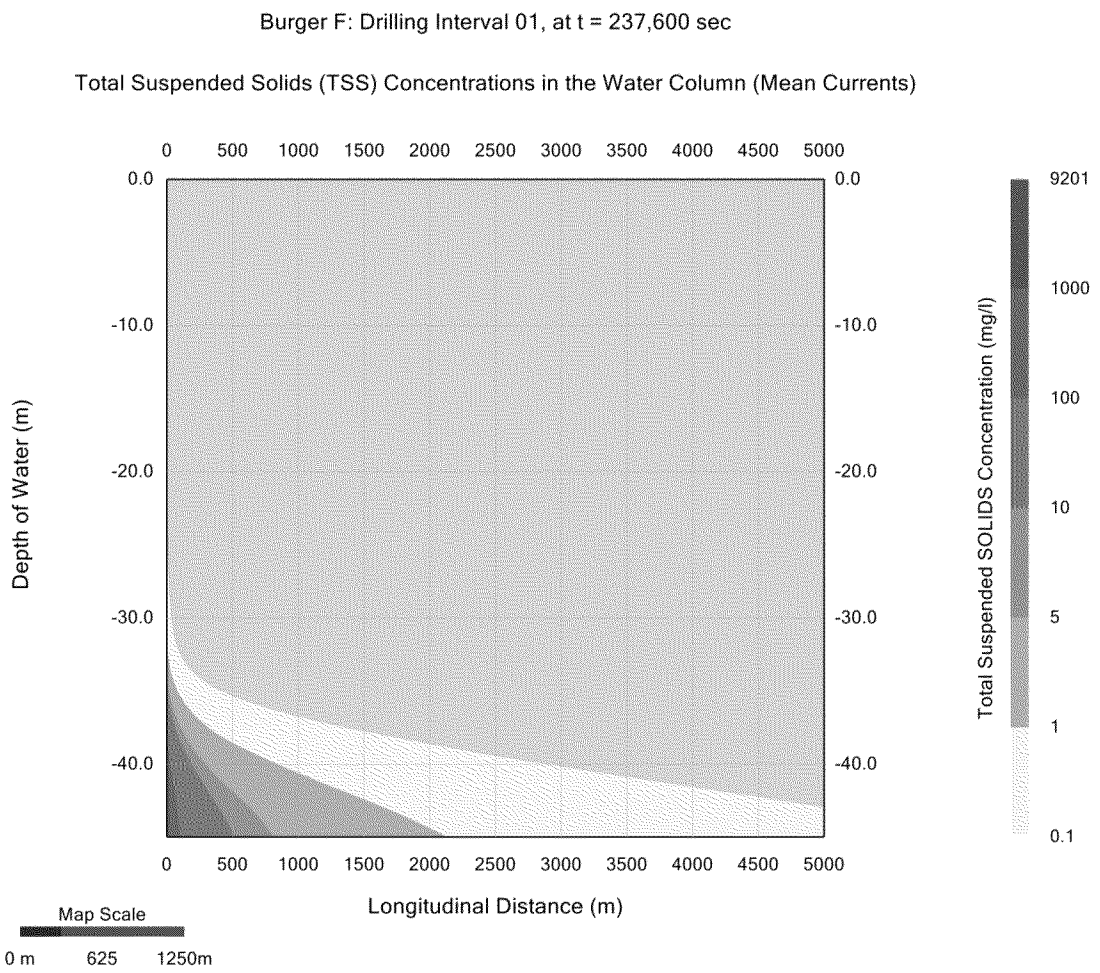


TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE WATER COLUMN

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column at time, t = **237,600** sec (or **66.0** hours) which is the discharge duration for this drill interval is presented in **Figure 5-3a**. The depth of water is **45.0** m at the discharge location. The discharge occurs at a depth of **43.17** m from a **12.0** inches internal diameter discharge pipe. Figure **5-3a** presents the maximum TSS concentrations attained during the discharge. The color filled contours present the variations of the TSS concentrations both with respect to the depth from the sea surface andthe distance from the source by different color bands. The maximum TSS concentration **9,200** mg/l occurs at the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **100** mg/l and **10** mg/l at distances approximately **100** m and **500** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **10** to **5** mg/l approximately between **500** and **800** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **5** to **1** mg/l between **800** and **2,100** m distances from the source. It is less than **1**mg/l beyond **2,100** m from the discharge location. The effect of the sea floor pump is visible in this Figure **5-3**. The discharge plume is spreading farther horizontally to the east along the direction of the current than vertically. The TSS concentration is less than **1** mg/l at a depth approximately **30** m at or near the discharge location. It is less than **5** mg/l at a depth approximately **40** m at **500** m from the discharge location.

The maximum TSS concentrations at **10**-, **30**-, **100**-, **300**-, and **1000**-m from the discharge location are: **1,138.3**, **413.4**, **103.1**, **22.1**, and **3.6** mg/l, respectively.

Figure 5-3a: Total suspended solids concentrations in water column at mean currents, Drilling Interval 01



FATE AND TRANSPORT OF THE TSS

The discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids ceases at time, t = **237,600** sec (or **66.0** hours). The fate and transport of the discharged solids at times **6**, **12**, **18**, and **24** hours (h) after the cessation of the discharge are presented by **Figures 5-3**b**, 5-3**c**, 5-3**d**,** and **5-3**e. These figures show that the TSS concentrations within the **5.0** km model domain decrease to: **5** mg/l or less at **6** h, **1** mg/l or less at **12** h, **1** mg/l or less at **18** h, and less than **0.1** mg/l at **24** h after the cessation of the discharge. Therefore, it can be described that the ambient TSS concentrations attains pre-existing conditions between **18** and **24** h after the cessation of the discharge based on the assumption that the ambient TSS value is equal to or more than **0.1** mg/l within the model domain.

Figure 5-3b: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 72 h (or 6 h after the cessation of release)

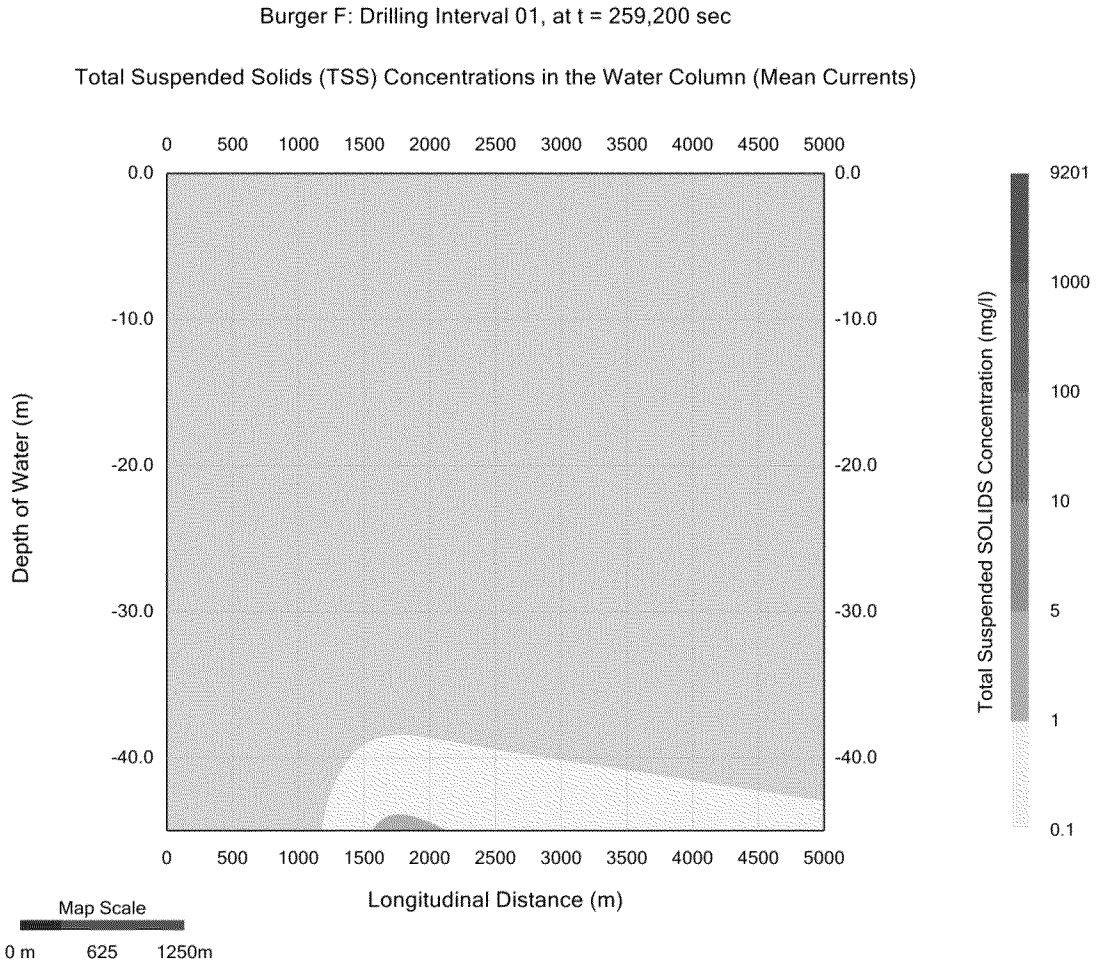


Figure 5-3c: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 78 h (or 12 h after the cessation of release)

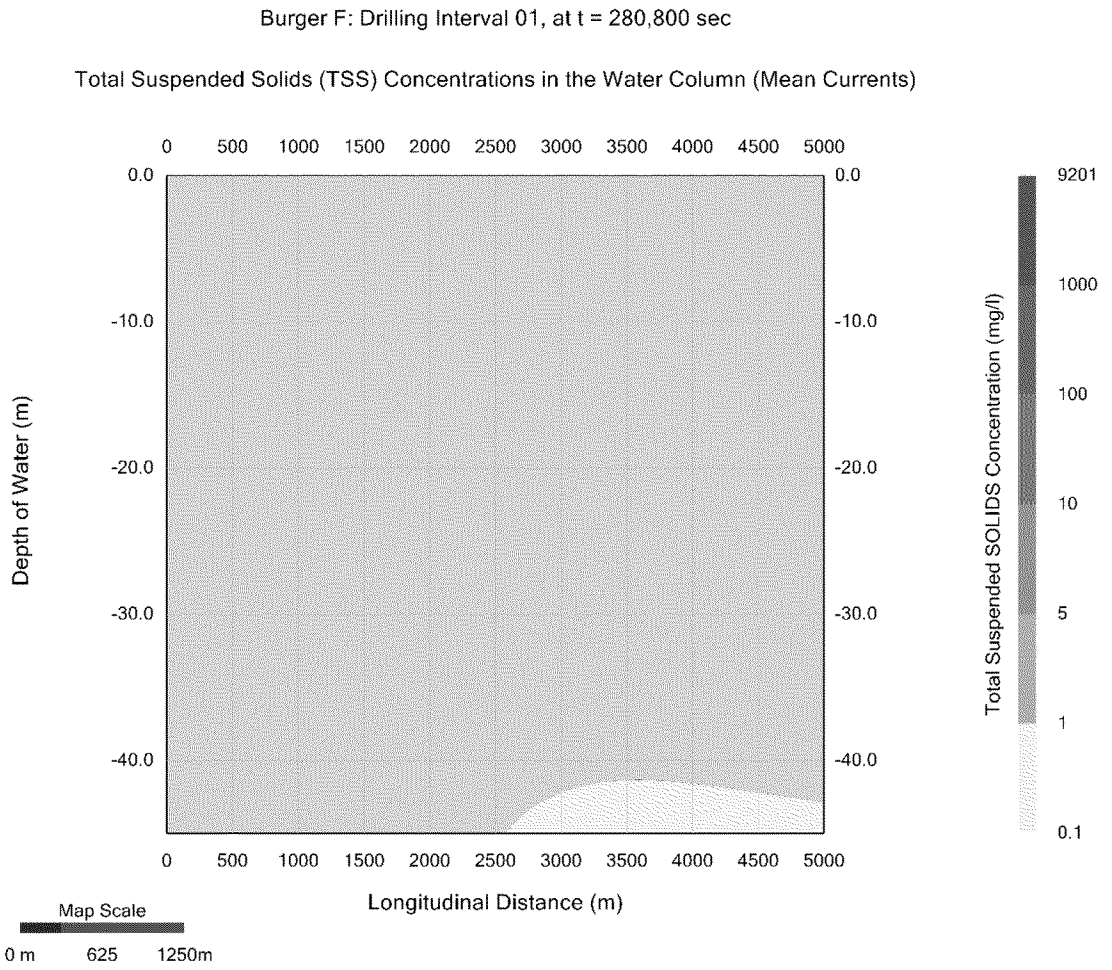


Figure 5-3d: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 84 h (or 18 h after the cessation of release)

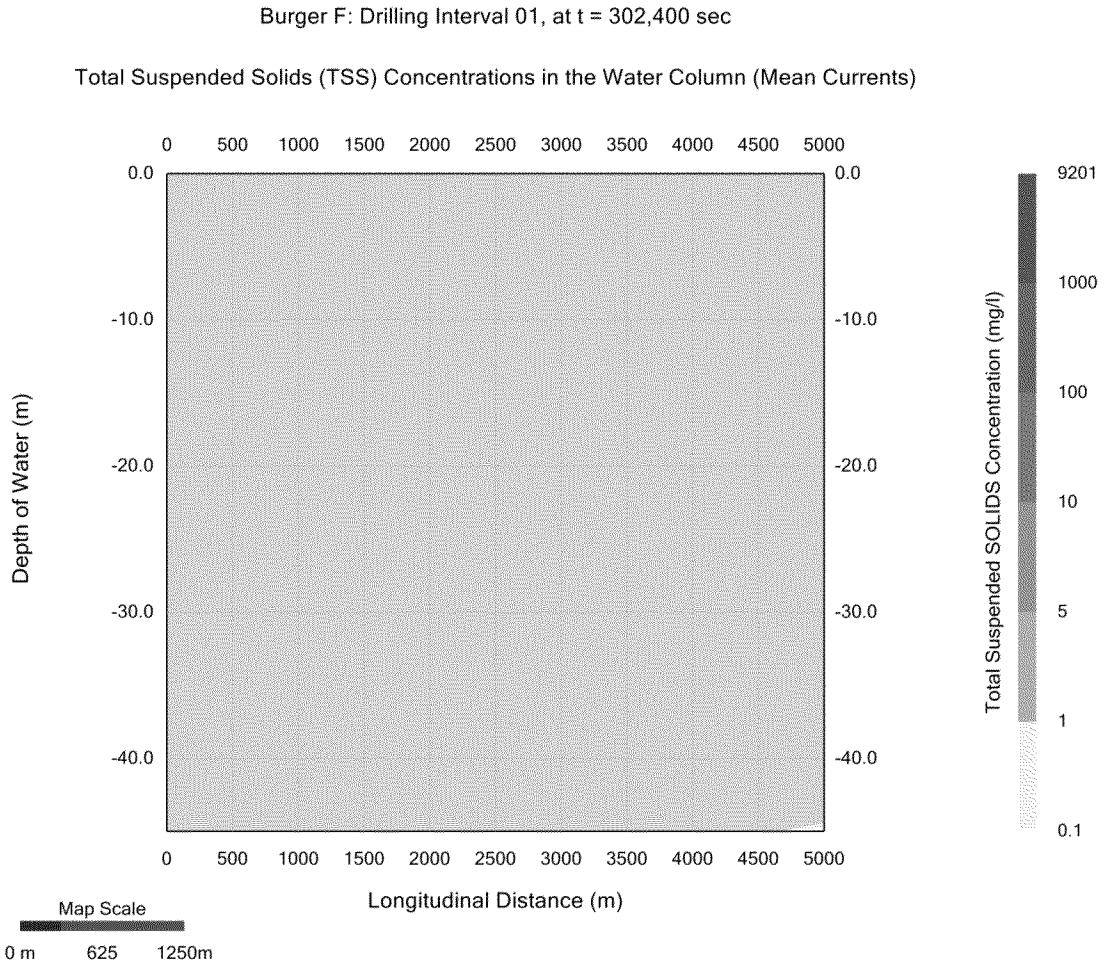
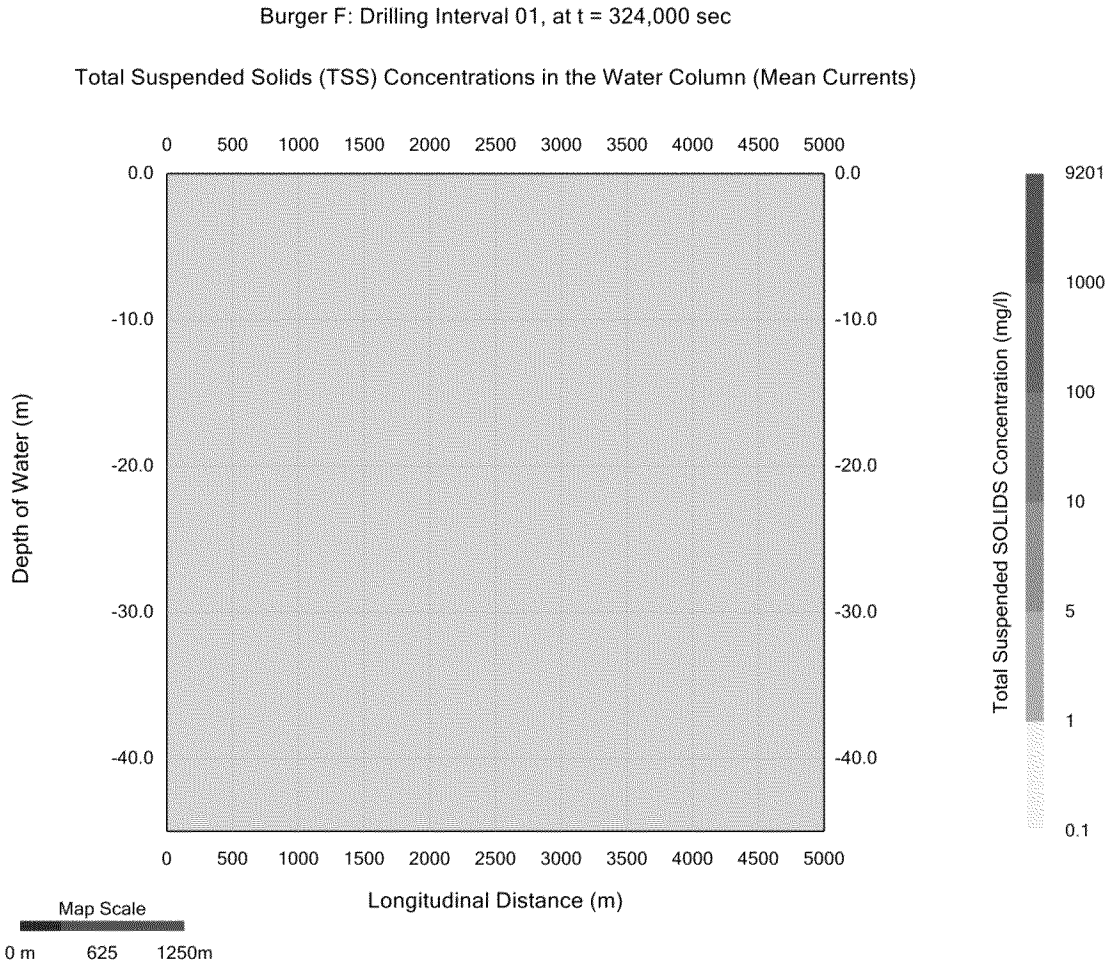


Figure 5-3e: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 90 h (or 24 h after the cessation of release)

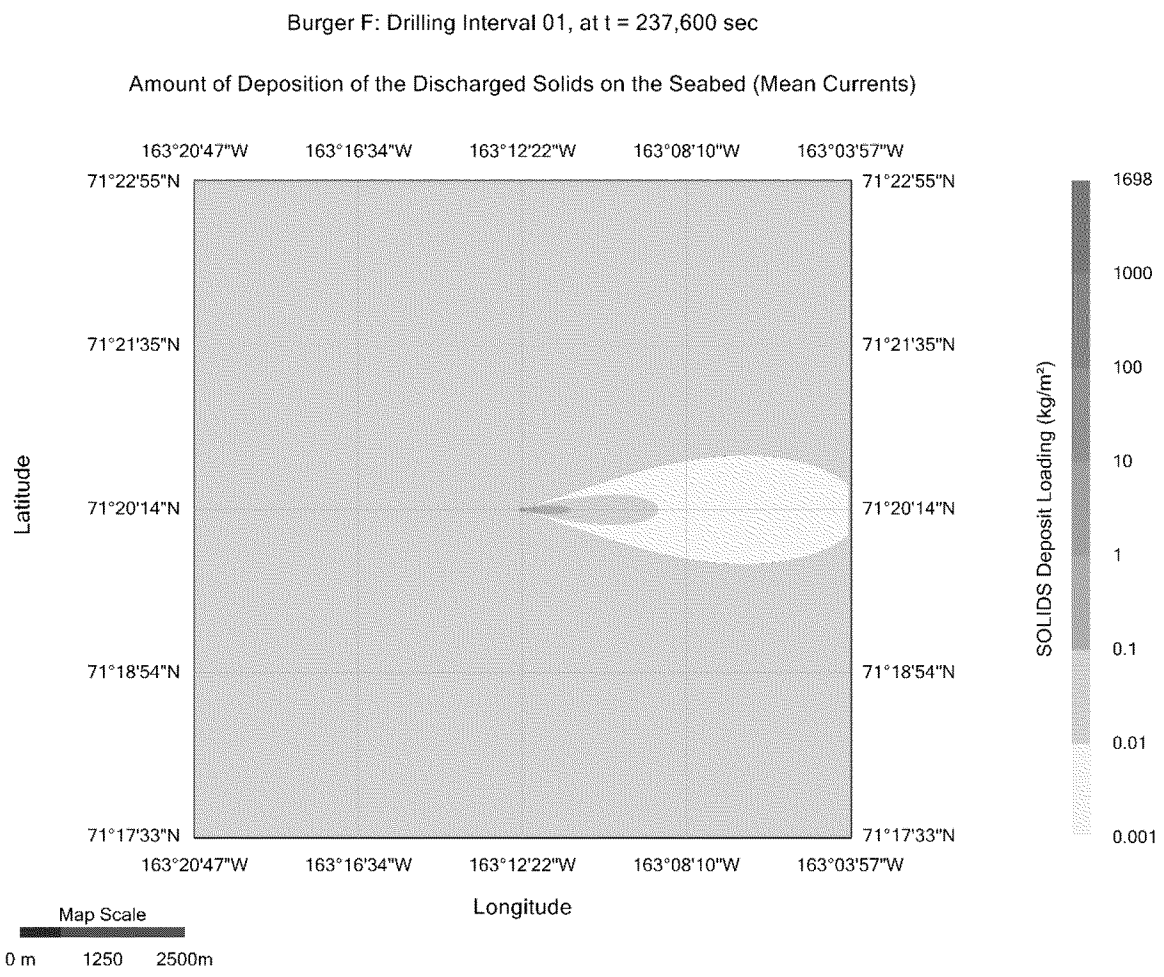


AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent and the amount of solids loading on the sea floor at time, t = **237,600** sec (or **66.0** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figures 5-4**. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as shown in Figure **5-4**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of this figure.The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The maximum loading **1,698** kg/m^2 occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the south from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **10** kg/m^2 and **1** kg/m^2 at distances approximately **50** m and **280** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 approximately between **280** and **750** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **0.1** kg/m^2 to **0.01** kg/m^2 approximately between **750** and **2,100** m distances from the discharge location. The loading is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **2,100** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **1000**-, **100**-, **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.097**, **0.120**, **0.322**, **1.230**, **7.556**, and **66.771** hectares (ha), respectively.

Figure 5-4: Amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 01



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of solids thickness of **1** cm or larger deposited on the sea floor at time, t = **237,600** sec (or **66.0** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figures 5-5a** and **5-5b.** The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular colorband. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. The solids deposited on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger as shown by a small dot, occurs on a very small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **5-5**a. The same result is presented in Figure **5-5**b but shows only **240** m x **240** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation of**1** cm or larger on the seabed. The maximum deposit thickness of **128.1** cm occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the south from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **50** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **70** m x **40** m rectangle area (or **0.274** ha) as presented in Figure **5-5**b. The sea floor areas affected by deposit thickness larger than **100**-, **10**-, and **1**-cm are: **0.089**, **0.119**, and **0.274** ha, respectively.

Figure 5-5a: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 01

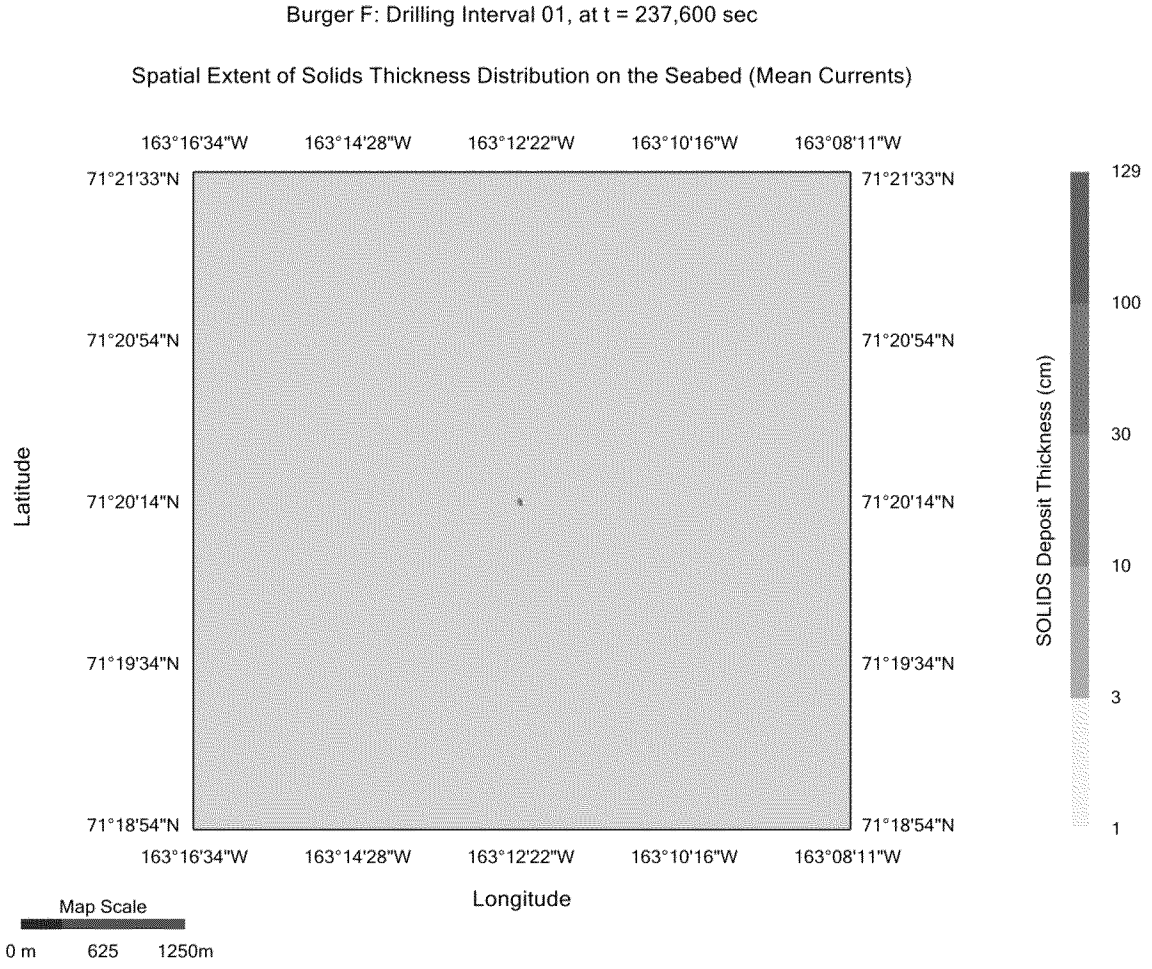
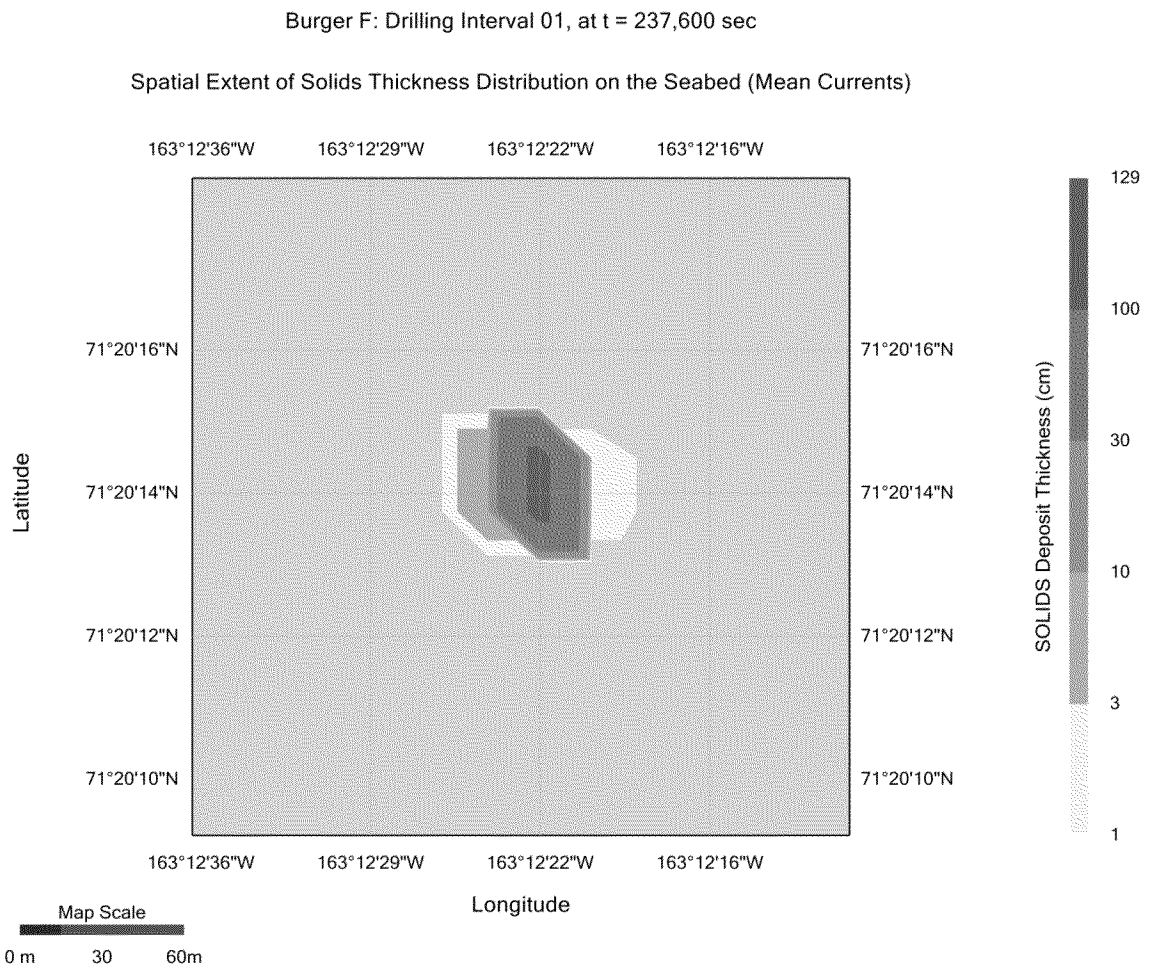


Figure 5-5b: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 01 (Zoom In View)



5.2 Model Results for Sea Floor Discharge Scenario – Drilling Interval 02

Trajectory and Shape of the Discharge Plume

The trajectory of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 5-6**. The depth of water is **45.0** m and the discharge occurs at a depth of **43.17** m from a **12.0** inches internal diameter discharge pipe of the sea floor pump at **14,000** bbls/hour. A flexible hose suction pipe of this sea floor pump moves the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids from the drill strings and discharges at **1.83** m (or **6** feet) above the seafloor. The discharge pipe is oriented horizontally aligned with the direction of the current, which is to the east. Therefore, the heavier discharge plume attempts to shoot horizontally as seen in Figure **5-6** and travels to the east to a distance approximately **0.35** m only from the discharge location before collapsing onto the sea floor due to the proximity of the plume near the sea floor. The shape and width of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 5-7**. The width of the plume is approximately **0.35** m at a distance **0.35** m from the discharge location. The solid lines present the outer boundaries and dotted line presents the center line of the discharge plume in Figures **5-6** and **5-7**.

Figure 5-6: Trajectory of the discharge plume at mean currents, Drilling Interval 02

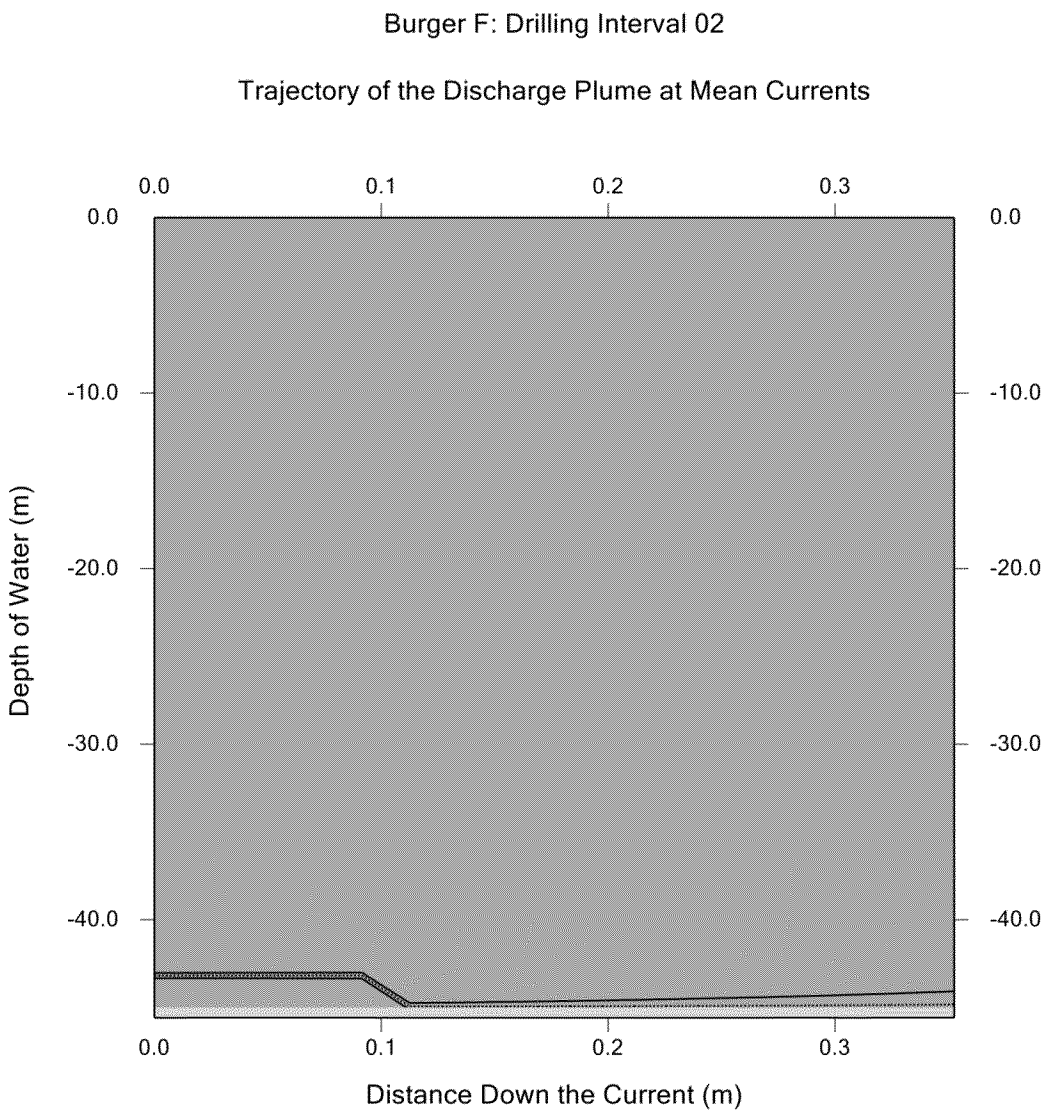
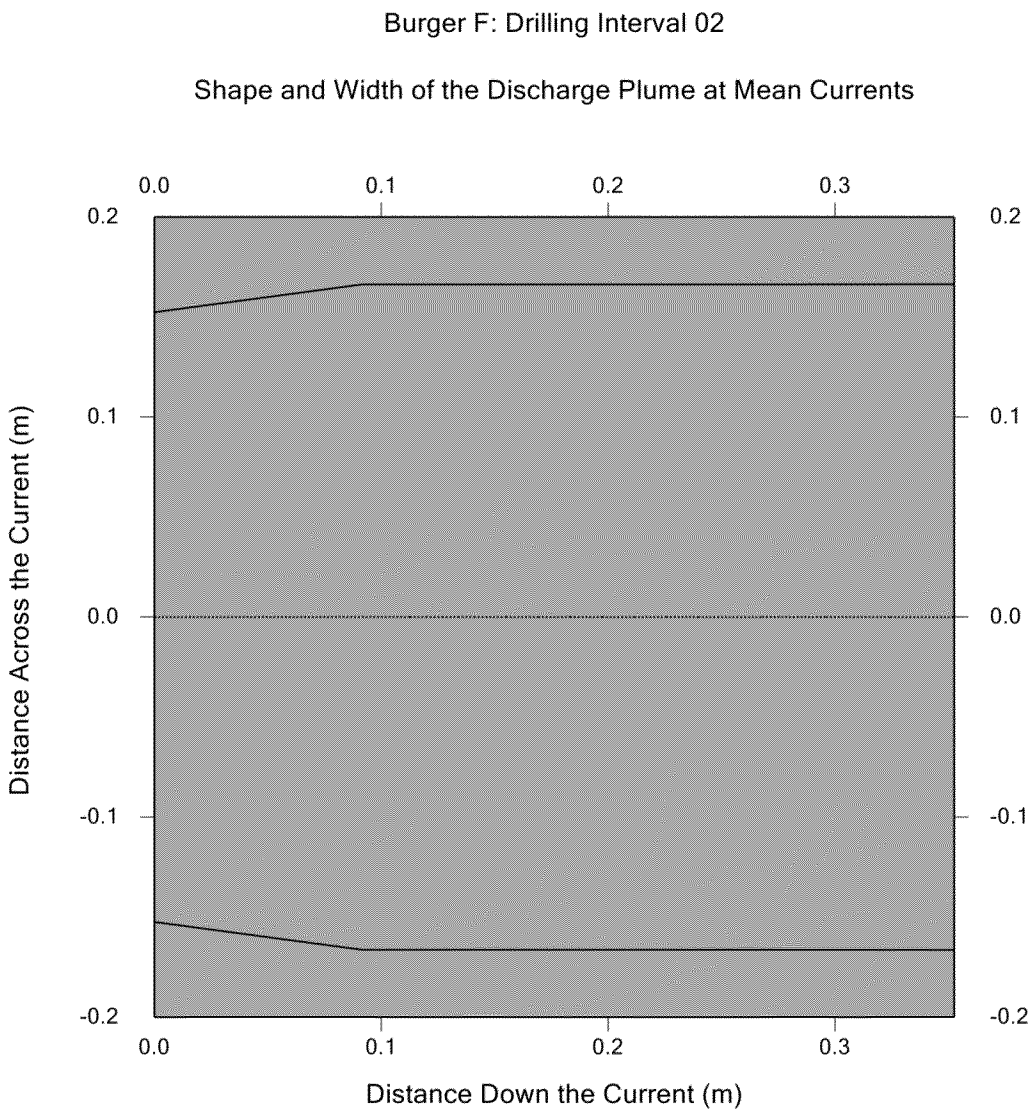


Figure 5-7: Shape and width of the discharge plume at mean currents, Drilling Interval 02

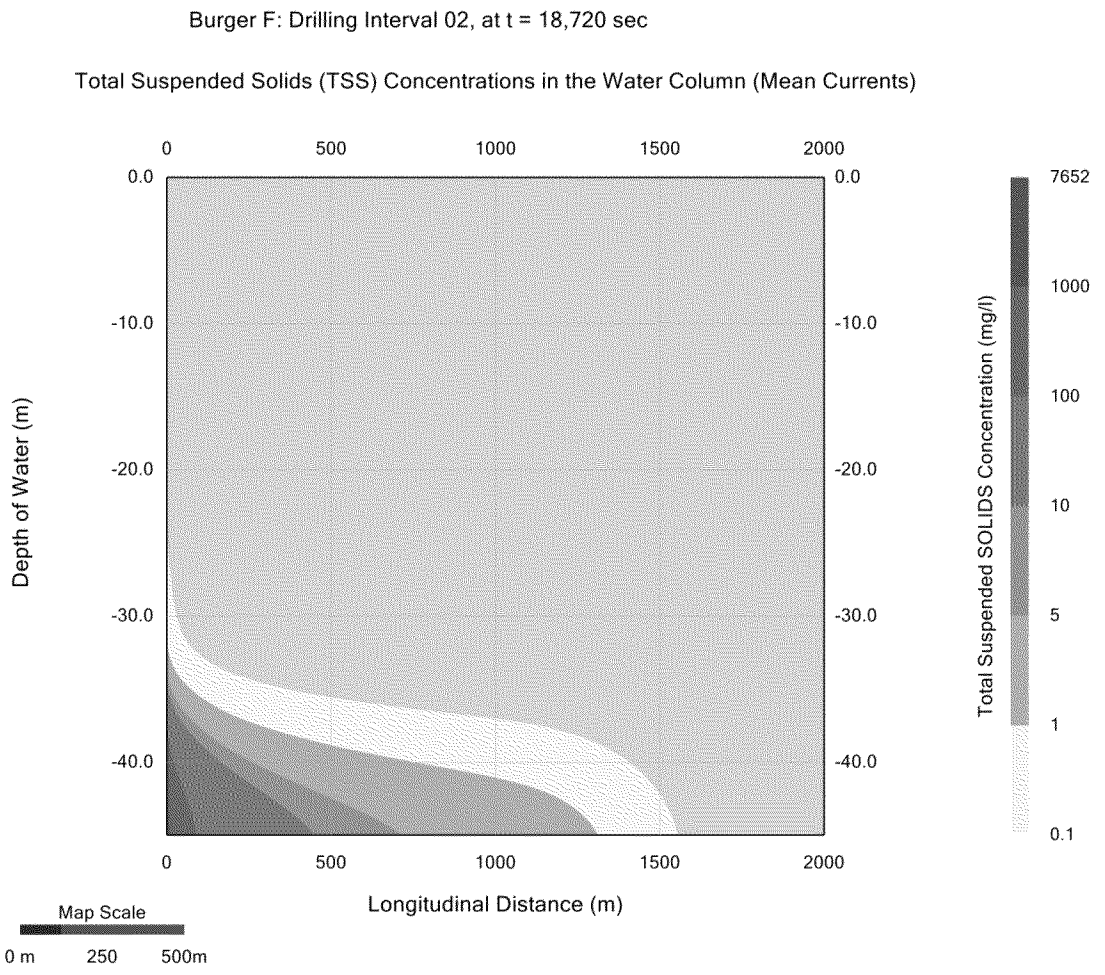


TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE WATER COLUMN

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column at time, t = **18,720** sec (or **5.2** hours) which is the discharge duration for this drilling interval is presented in **Figure 5-8a**. The depth of water is **45.0** m at the discharge location. The discharge occurs at a depth of **43.17** m from a **12.0** inches internal diameter discharge pipe. Figure **5-8**a presents the maximum TSS concentrations attained during the discharge. The color filled contours present the variations of the TSS concentrations both with respect to the depth from the sea surface and the distance from the source by different color bands. The maximum TSS concentration **7,652** mg/l occurs at the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **100** mg/l and **10** mg/l at distances approximately **90** m and **440** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **10** to **5** mg/l approximately between **440** and **710** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **5** to **1** mg/l between **710** and **1,320** m distances from the discharge location. It is less than **1** mg/l beyond **1,320** m from the discharge location. The effect of the sea floor pump is visible in this Figure **5-8a**. The discharge plume is spreading farther horizontally to the east along the direction of the current than vertically. The TSS concentration is less than **1** mg/l at a depth approximately **30** m at or near the discharge location. It is less than **5** mg/l at a depth approximately **40** m at **500** m from the discharge location.

The maximum TSS concentrations at **10**-, **30**-, **100**-, **300**-, and **1000**-m from the discharge location are: **913.0**, **317.5**, **87.0**, **18.4**, and **2.9**mg/l, respectively.

Figure 5-8a: Total suspended solids concentrations in water column at mean currents, Drilling Interval 02



FATE AND TRANSPORT OF THE TSS

The discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids ceases at time, t = **18**,**720** sec (or **5**.**2** hours). The fate and transport of the discharged solids at times **6**, **12**, and **18** h after the cessation of the discharge are presented by **Figures 5-8**b**, 5-8**c**,** and **5-8**d. These figures show that the TSS concentrations within the **5.0** km model domain decrease to: **5** mg/l or less at **6** h, **1** mg/l or less at **12** h, and less than **0**.**1** mg/l at **18** h after the cessation of the discharge. Therefore, it can be described that the ambient TSS concentrations attains pre-existing conditions between **12** and **18** h after the cessation of the discharge based on the assumption that the ambient TSS value is equal to or more than **0**.**1** mg/l within the model domain.

Figure 5-8b: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 11.2 h (or 6 h after the cessation of release)

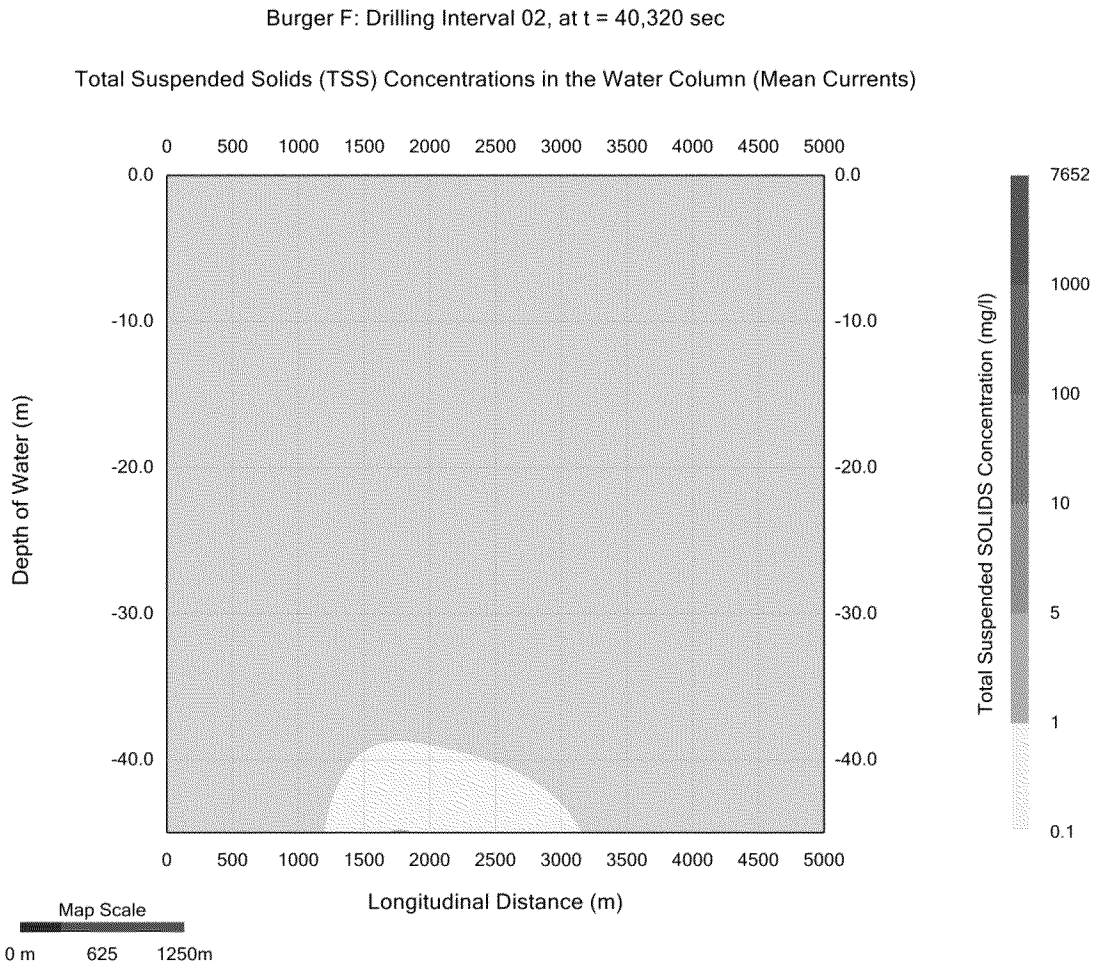


Figure 5-8c: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 17.2 h (or 12 h after the cessation of release)

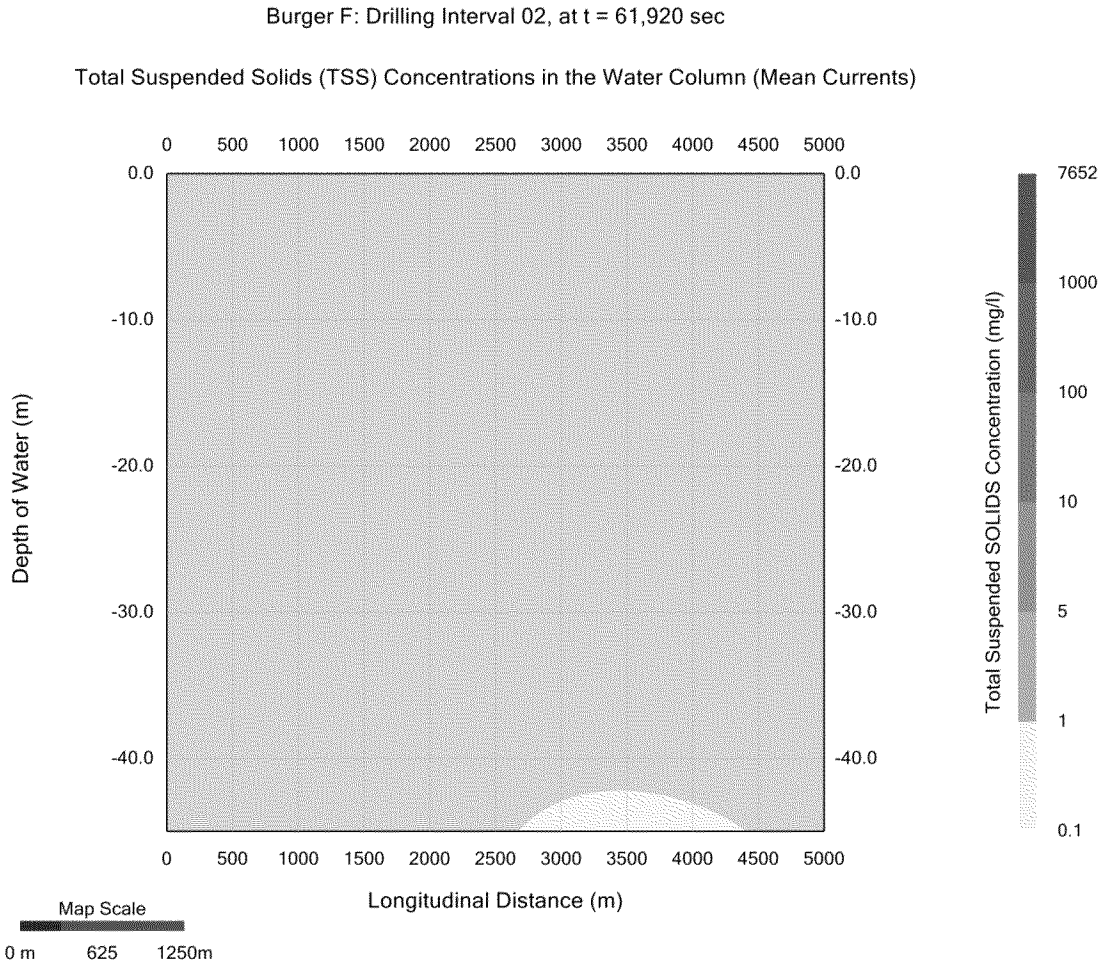
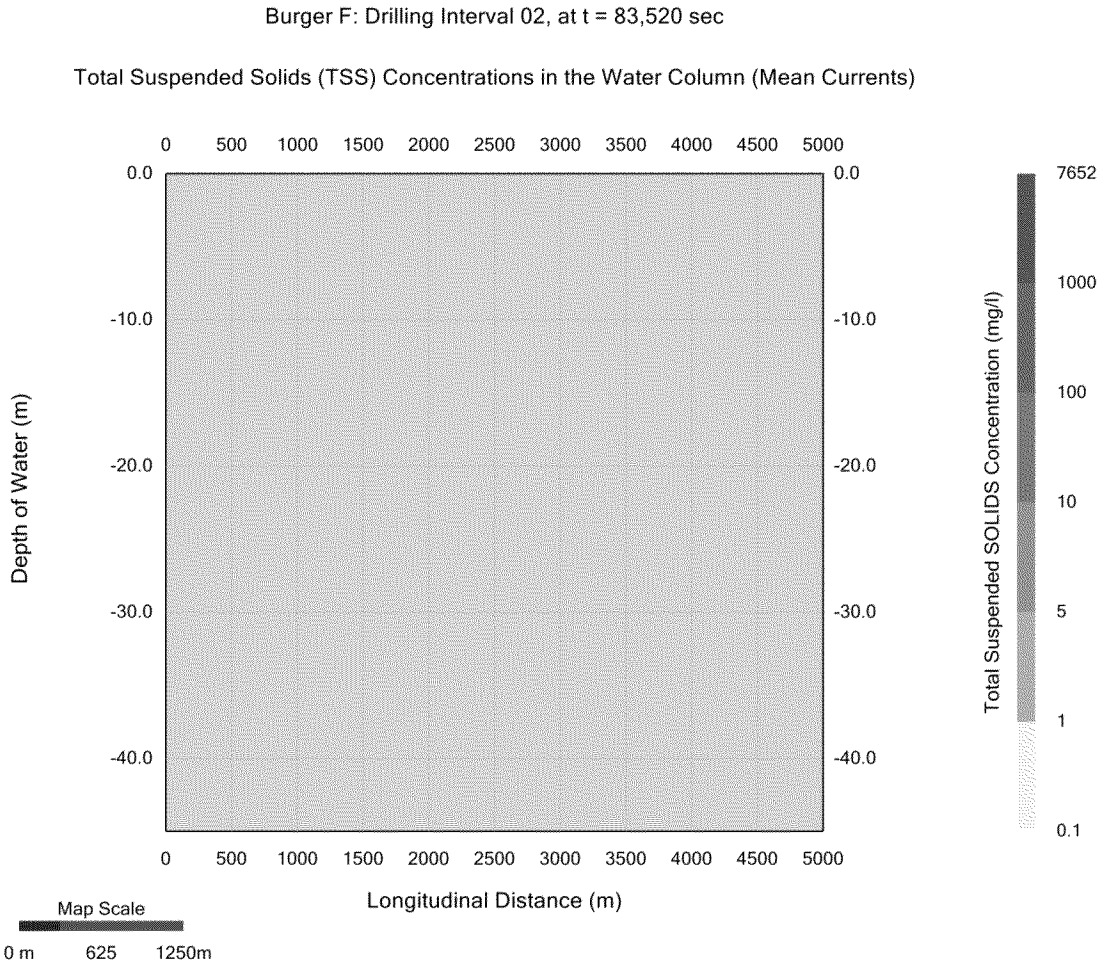


Figure 5-8d: TSS concentrations during the mean currents, at 23.2 h (or 18 h after the cessation of release)

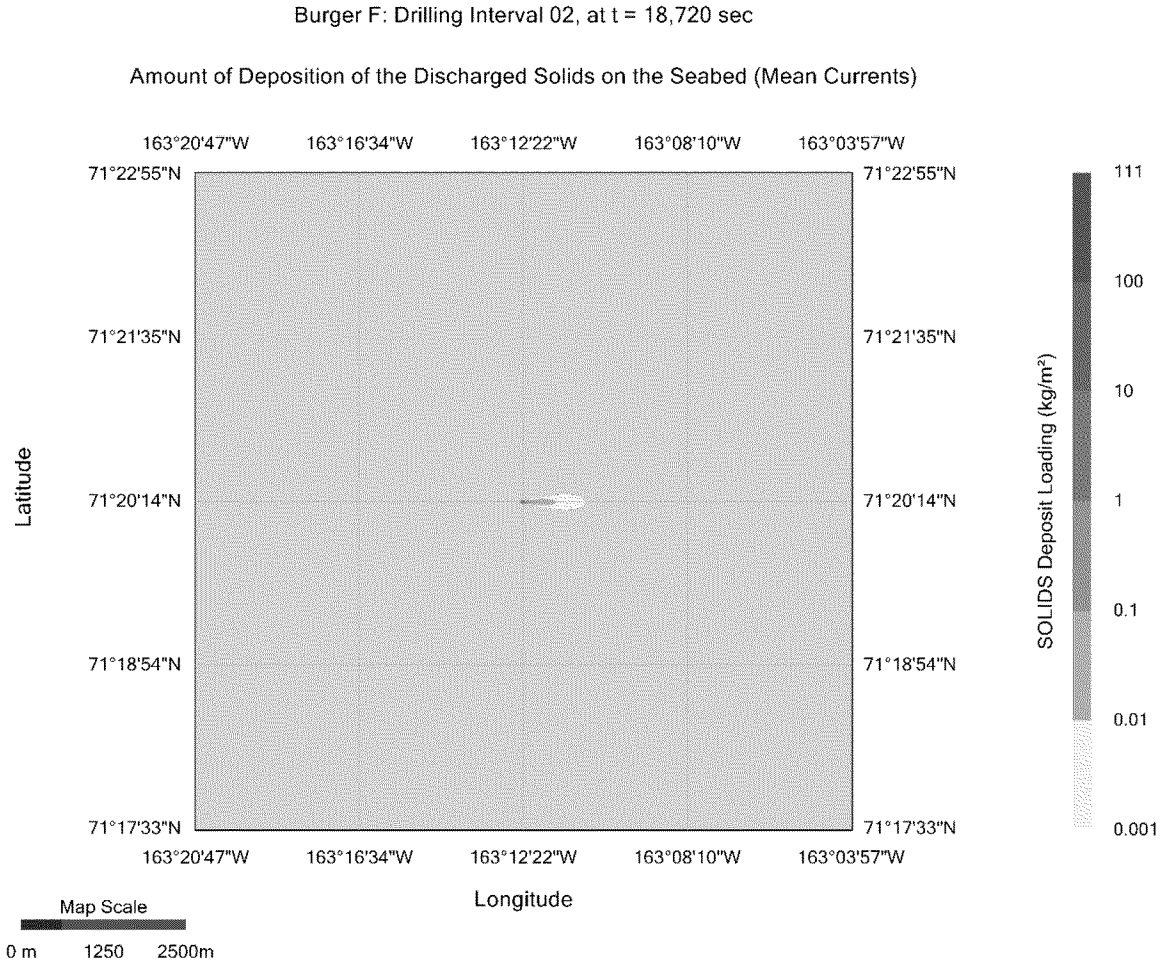


AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent and the amount of solids loading on the sea floor at time, t = **18,720** sec (or **5.2** hours) as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figure 5-9**. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as shown in Figure **5-9**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of this figure.The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The maximum loading of **111** kg/m^2 occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **10** kg/m^2 and **1** kg/m^2 at distances approximately **30** m and **45** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 approximately between **45** and **210** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **0.1** kg/m^2 to **0.01** kg/m^2 approximately between **210** and **520** m distances from the discharge location. The loading is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **520** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **100**-, **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.084**, **0.119**, **0.270**, **0.916**, and **3.540** ha, respectively.

Figure 5-9: Amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 02



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of solids thickness of **1** cm or larger deposited on the sea floor at time, t = **18,720** sec (or **5.2** hours) as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figures 5-10a** and **5-10b.** The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular colorband. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. But the solids deposit on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger as shown by a small dot, occurs on a very small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **5-10**a. The same result is presented in Figure **5-10**b but shows only **240** m x **240** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation of **1** cm or larger on the seabed. The maximum deposit thickness of **8.4** cm occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **28** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **35** m x **40** m square area (or **0.117** ha) as presented in Figure **5-10**b. The sea floor areas affected by deposit thickness larger than **1**-cm is: **0.117** ha.

Figure 5-10a: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 02

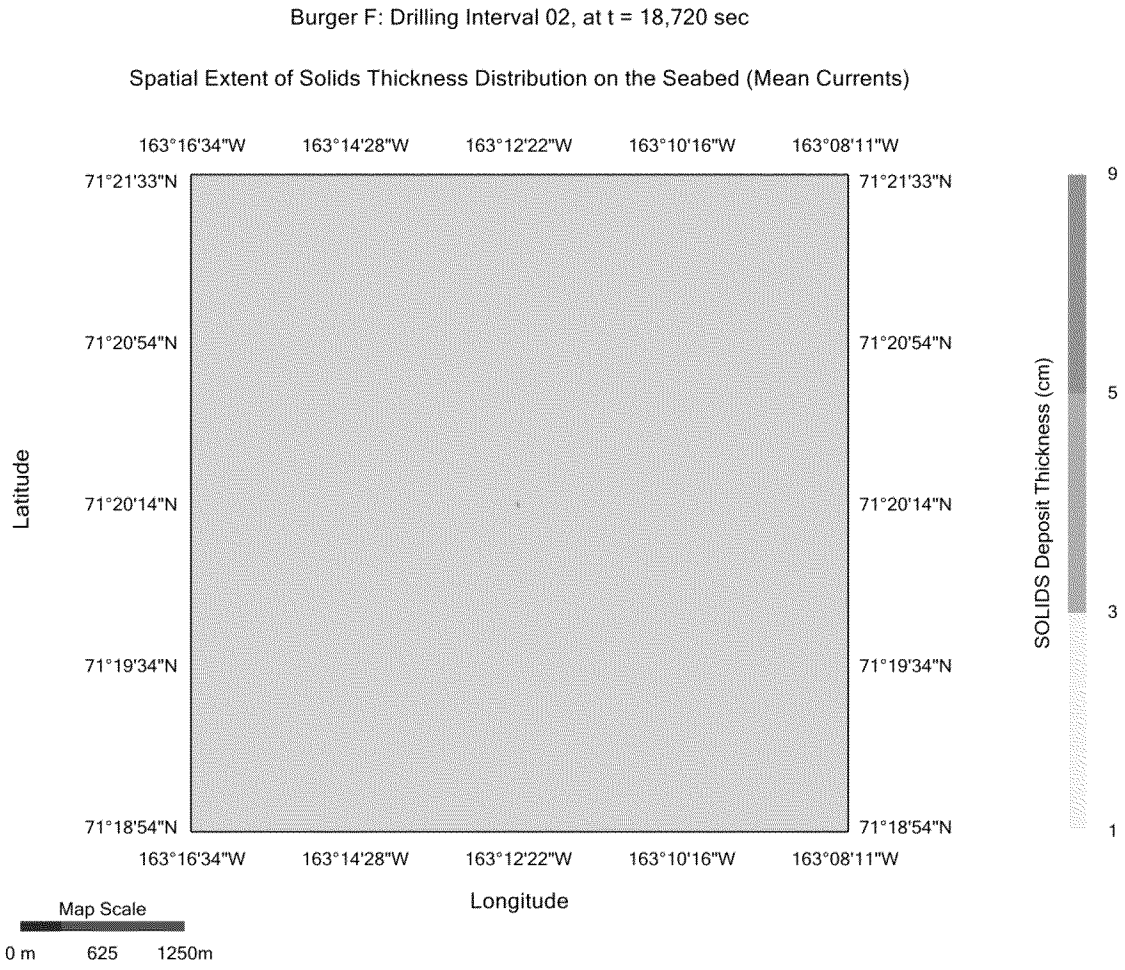
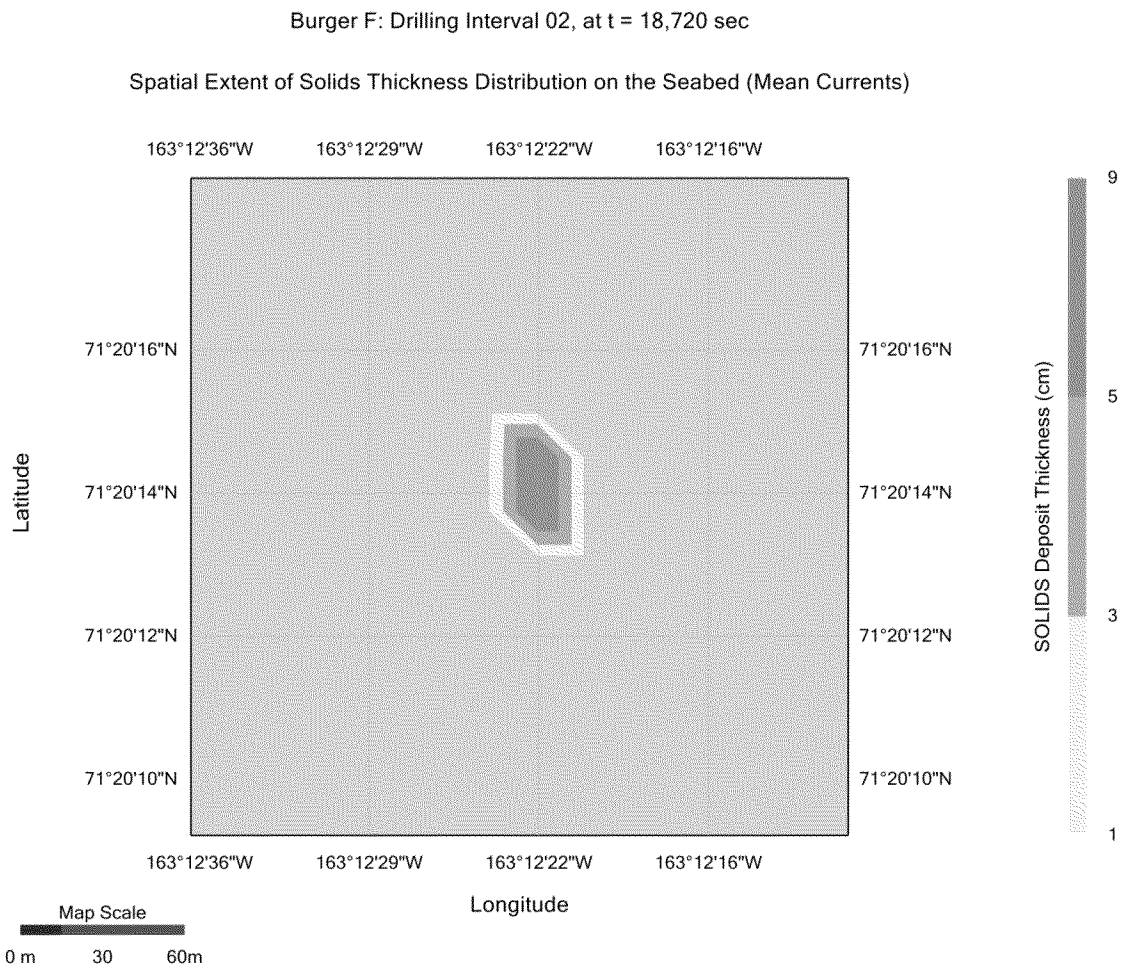


Figure 5-10b: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 02 (Zoom In View)



5.3 Model Results for Sea Floor Discharge Scenario – Drilling Interval 03

Trajectory and Shape of the Discharge Plume

The trajectory of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 5-11**. The depth of water is **45.0** m and the discharge occurs at a depth of **43.17** m from a **12.0** inches internal diameter discharge pipe of the sea floor pump at **14,000** bbls/hour. A flexible hose suction pipe of this sea floor pump moves the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids from the drill strings and discharges at **1.83** m (or **6** feet) above the seafloor. The discharge pipe is oriented horizontally aligned with the direction of the current, which is to theeast. Therefore, the heavier discharge plume attempts to shoot horizontally as seen in figure below and travels to the east to a distance approximately **0.35** m only from the discharge location before collapsing onto the sea floor due to the proximity of the plume near the sea floor. The shape and width of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 5-12**. The width of the plume is approximately **0.35** m at a distance **0.35** m from the discharge location. The solid lines present the outer boundaries and dotted line presents the center line of the discharge plumein Figures **5-11** and **5-12**.

Figure 5-11: Trajectory of the discharge plume at mean currents, Drilling Interval 03

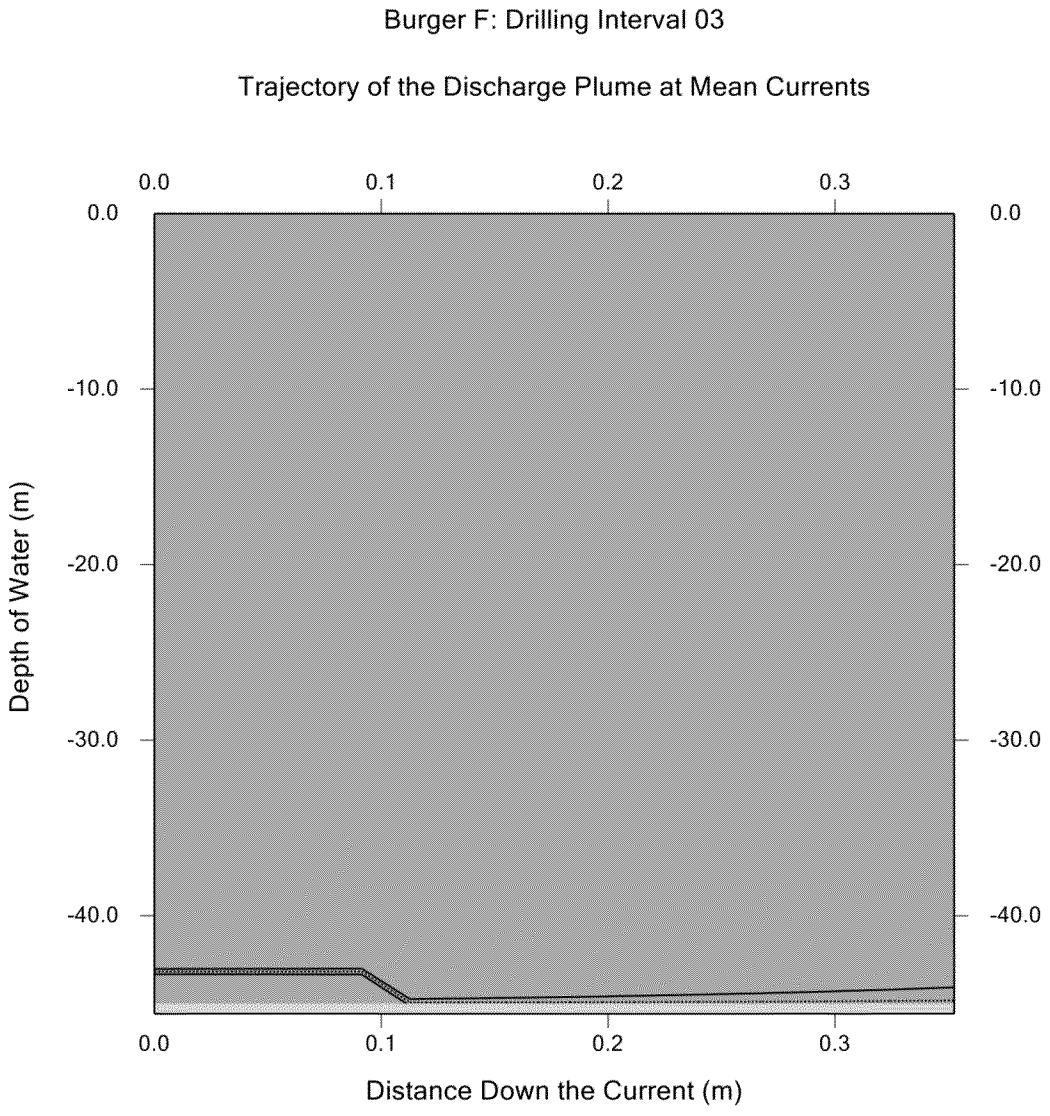
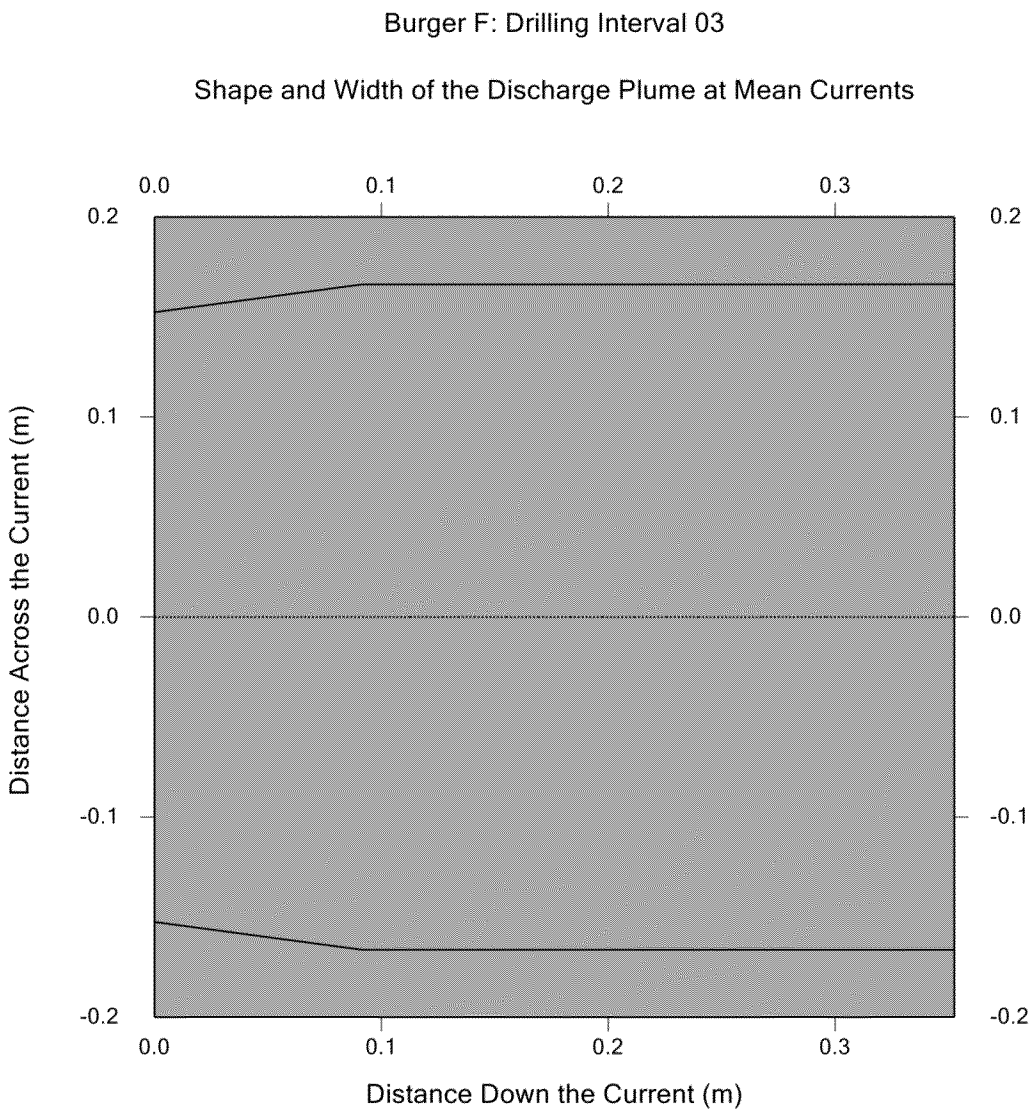


Figure 5-12: Shape and width of the discharge plume at mean currents, Drilling Interval 03

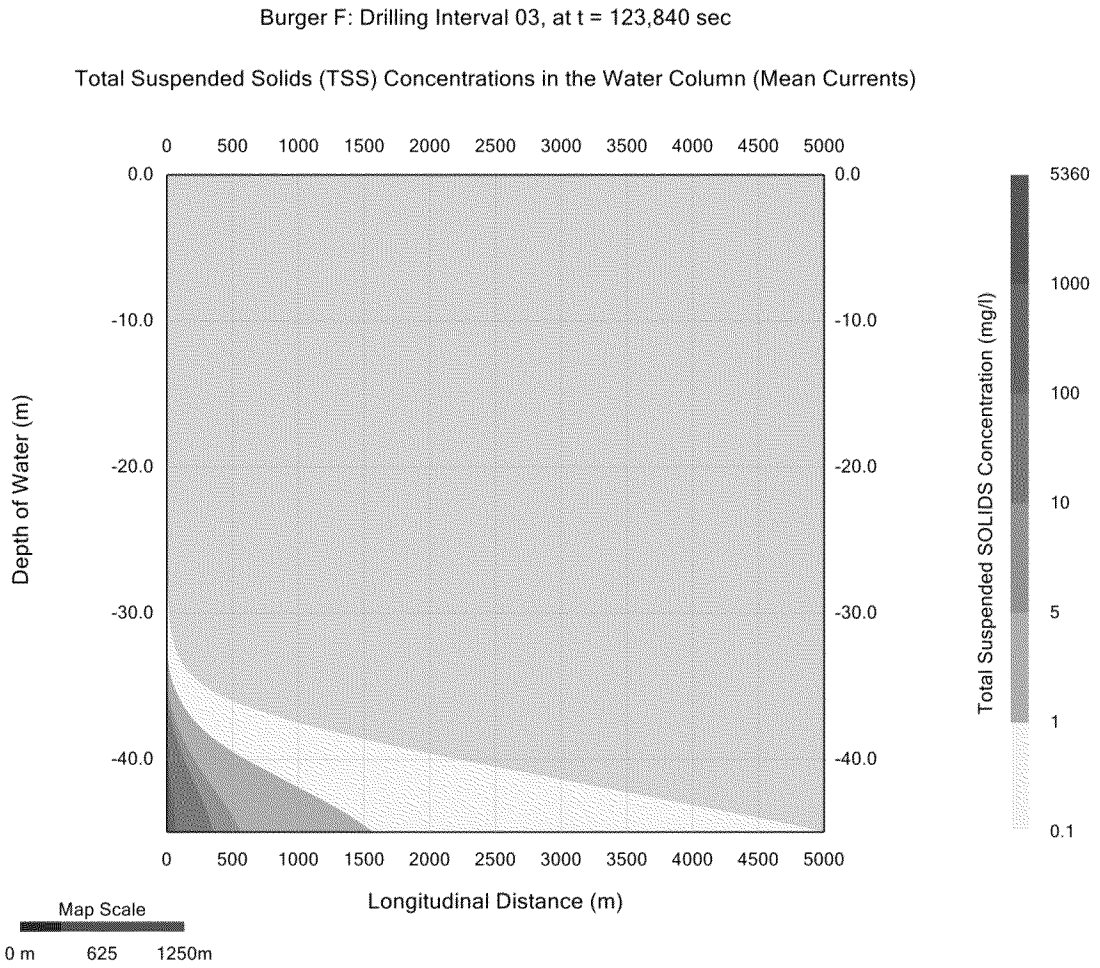


TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE WATER COLUMN

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column at time, t = **123,840** sec (or **34.4** hours) which is the discharge duration for this drilling interval is presented in **Figure 5-13a**. The depth of water is **45.0** m at the discharge location. The discharge occurs at a depth of **43.17** m from a **12.0** inches internal diameter discharge pipe. Figure **5-13**a presents the maximum TSS concentrations attained during the discharge. The color filled contours present the variations of the TSS concentrations both with respect to the depth from the sea surface and the distance from the source by different color bands. The maximum TSS concentration **5,359** mg/l occurs at the source. It decreases to a value of **100** mg/l at a distance approximately **65** m from the discharge location. It varies from **100** to **10** mg/l between **65** and **350** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **10** to **5** mg/l between **350** and **550** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **5** to **1** mg/l between **550** and **1,560** m distances from the discharge location. It is less than **1**mg/l beyond **1,560** m from the discharge location. The effect of the sea floor pump is visible in this Figure **5-13a**. The discharge plume is spreading farther horizontally to the east along the direction of the current than vertically. The TSS concentration is less than **1** mg/l at a depth approximately **30** m at or near the discharge location. It is less than **5** mg/l at a depth approximately **40** m at **500** m from the discharge location.

The maximum TSS concentrations at **10**-, **30**-, **100**-, **300**-, and **1000**-m from the discharge location are: **589.9**, **223.9**, **61.2**, **12.8**, and **2.1** mg/l, respectively.

Figure 5-13a: Total suspended solids concentrations in water column at mean currents, Drilling Interval 03



FATE AND TRANSPORT OF THE TSS

The discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids ceases at time, t = **123**,**840** sec (or **34**.**4** hours). The fate and transport of the discharged solids at times **6**, **12**, and **18** h after the cessation of the discharge are presented by **Figures 5-13**b**, 5-13**c**,** and **5-13**d. These figures show that the TSS concentrations within the **5.0** km model domain decrease to: **1** mg/l or less at **6** h, **1** mg/l or less at **12** h, and less than **1** mg/l at **18** h after the cessation of the discharge. Therefore, it can be described that the ambient TSS concentrations attains pre-existing conditions between **12** and **18** h after the cessation of the discharge based on the assumption that the ambient TSS value is equal to or more than **0**.**1** mg/l within the model domain.

Figure 5-13b: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 40.4 h (or 6 h after the cessation of release)

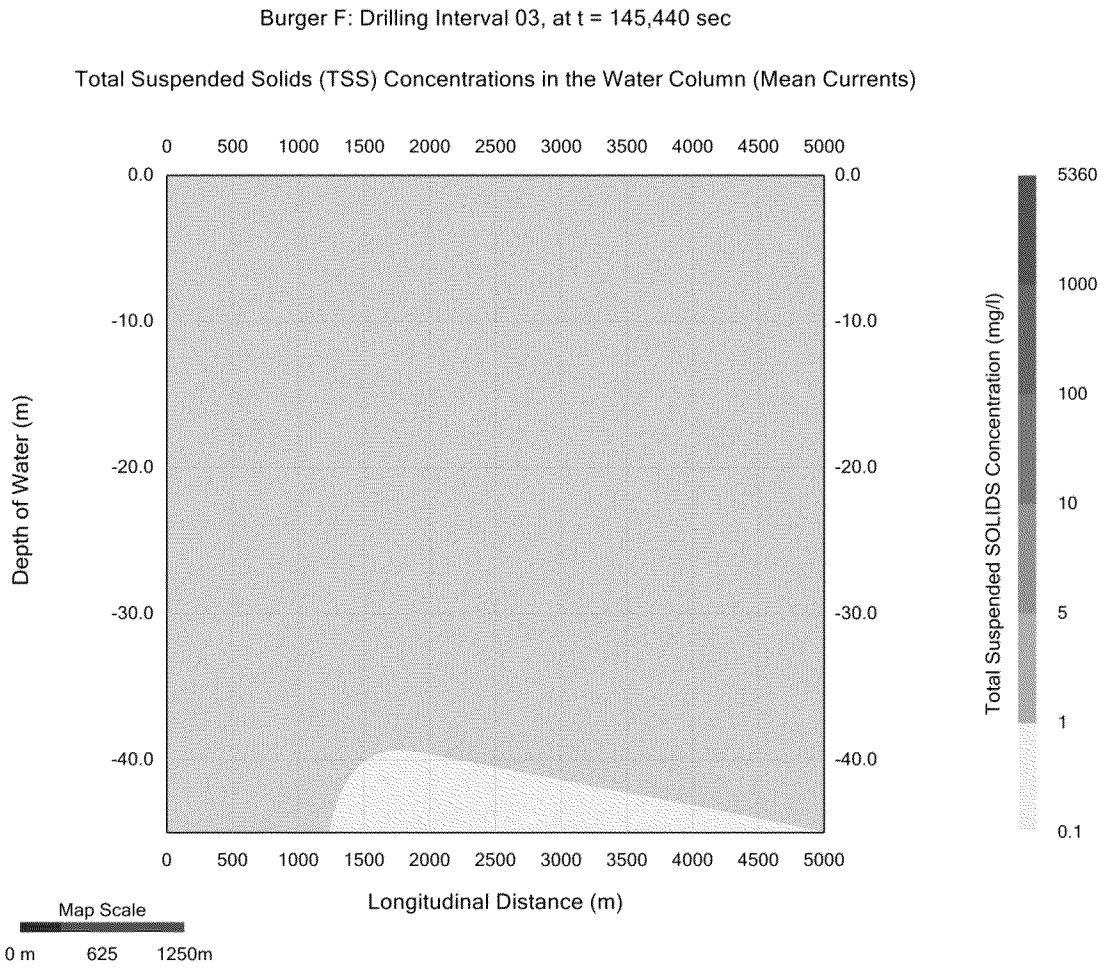


Figure 5-13c: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 46.4 h (or 12 h after the cessation of release)

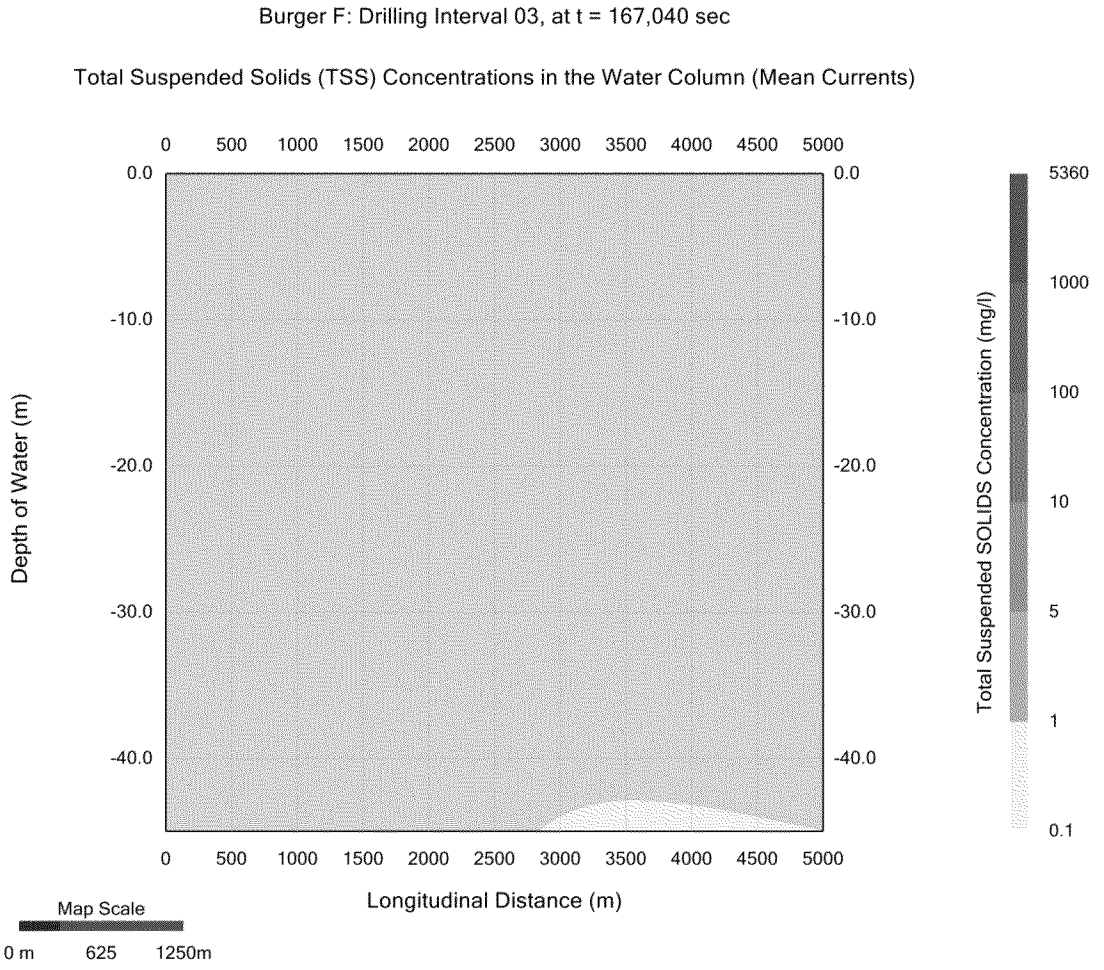
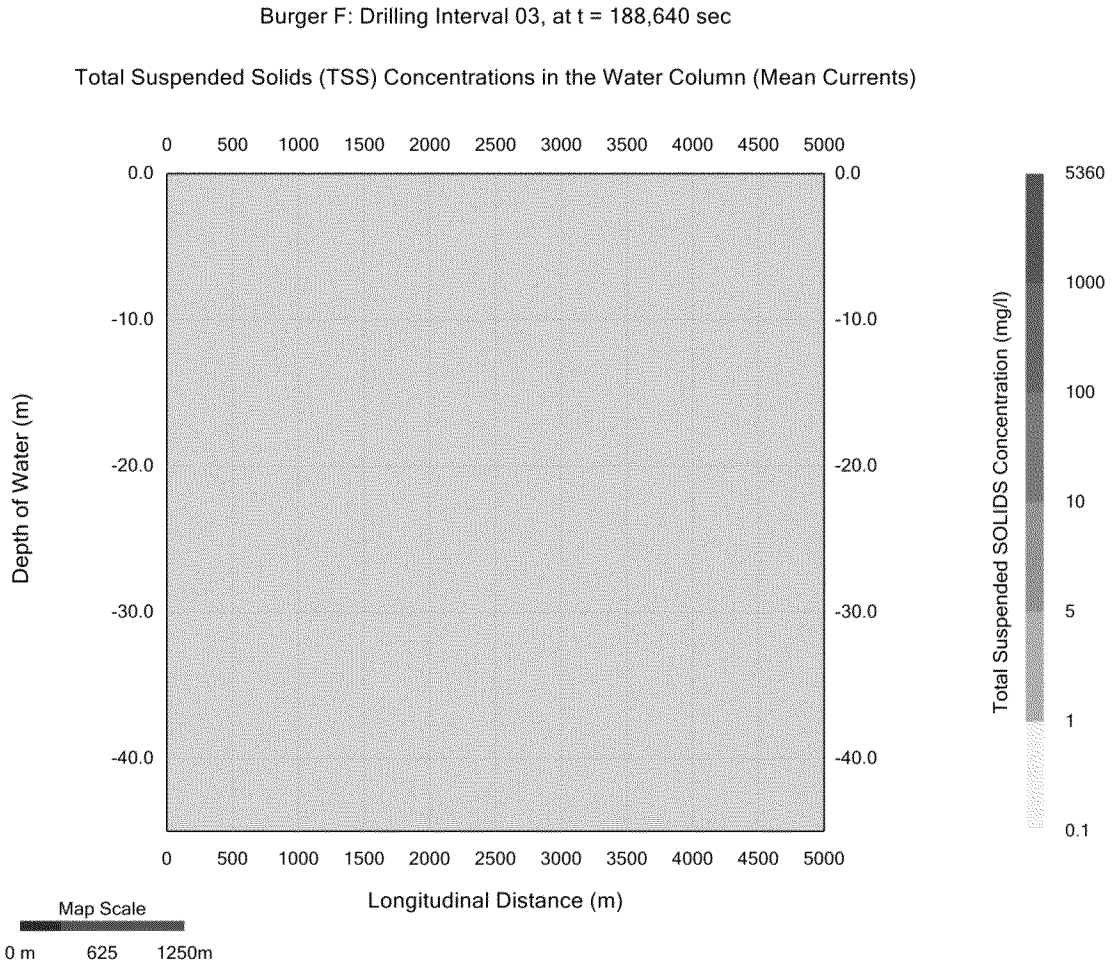


Figure 5-13d: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 52.4 h (or 18 h after the cessation of release)

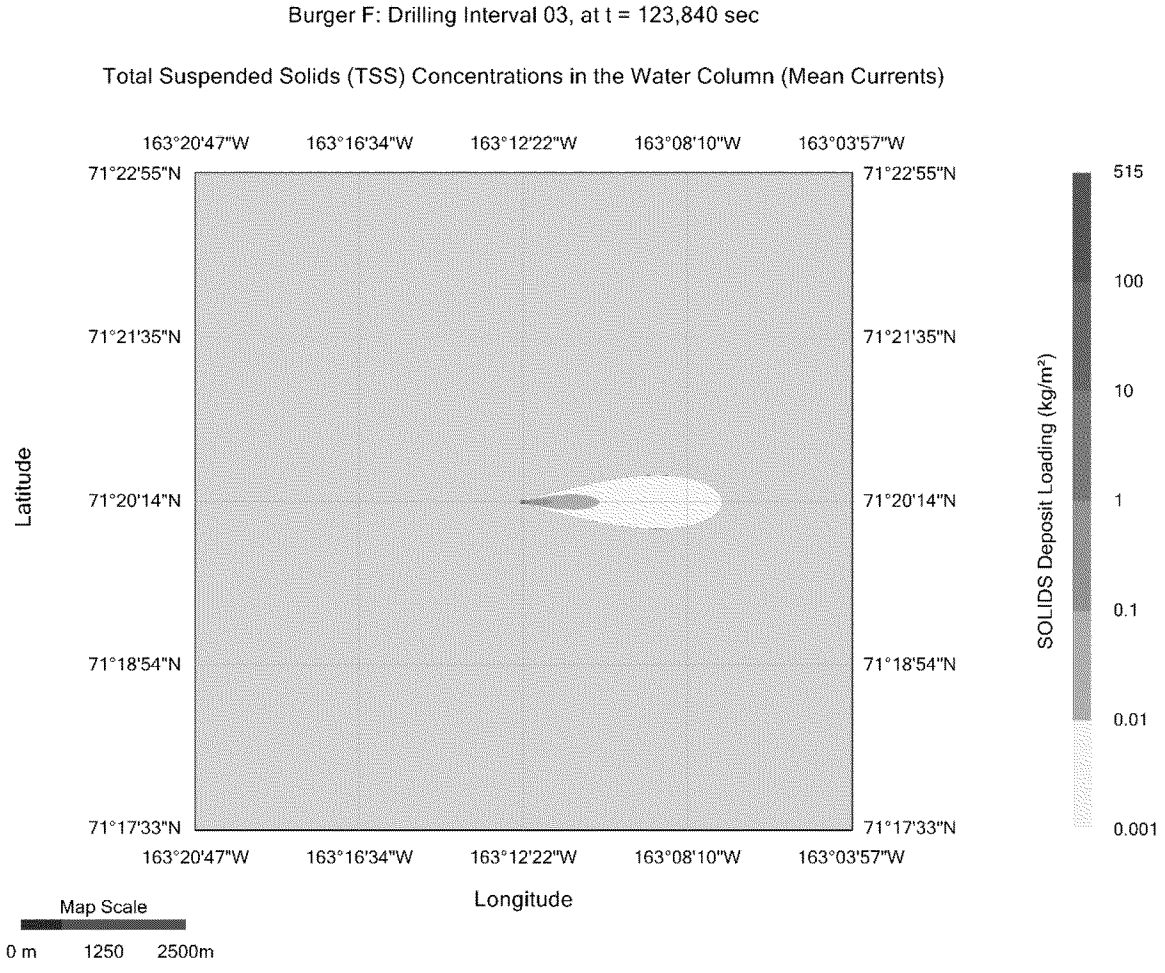


AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent and the amount of solids loading on the sea floor at time, t = **123,840** sec (or **34.4** hours) as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figure 5-14**. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as shown in Figure **5-14**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of this figure. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The maximum loading **515** kg/m^2 occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **10** kg/m^2 and **1** kg/m^2 at distances approximately **25** m and **130** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 approximately between **130** and **450** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **0.1** kg/m^2 to **0.01** kg/m^2 approximately between **450** and **1,180** m distances from the discharge location. It is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **1,180** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **100**-, **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.114**, **0.199**, **0.585**, **3.953**, and **19.545** ha, respectively.

Figure 5-14: Amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 03



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of solids thickness of **1** cm or larger deposited on the sea floor at time, t = **123,840** sec (or **34.4** hours) as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figures 5-15a** and **5-15b**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular colorband. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. The solids deposited on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger as shown by a small dot, occurs on a very small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **5-15**a. The same result is presented in Figure **5-15**b but shows only **240** m x **240** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation of **1** cm or larger on the seabed. The maximum deposit thickness of **38.9** cm occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **30** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **50** m x **40** m rectangle area (or **0.192** ha) as presented in Figure **5-15**b. The sea floor areas affected by deposit thickness larger than **10**- and **1**-cm are: **0.111** and **0.192** ha, respectively.

Figure 5-15a: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 03

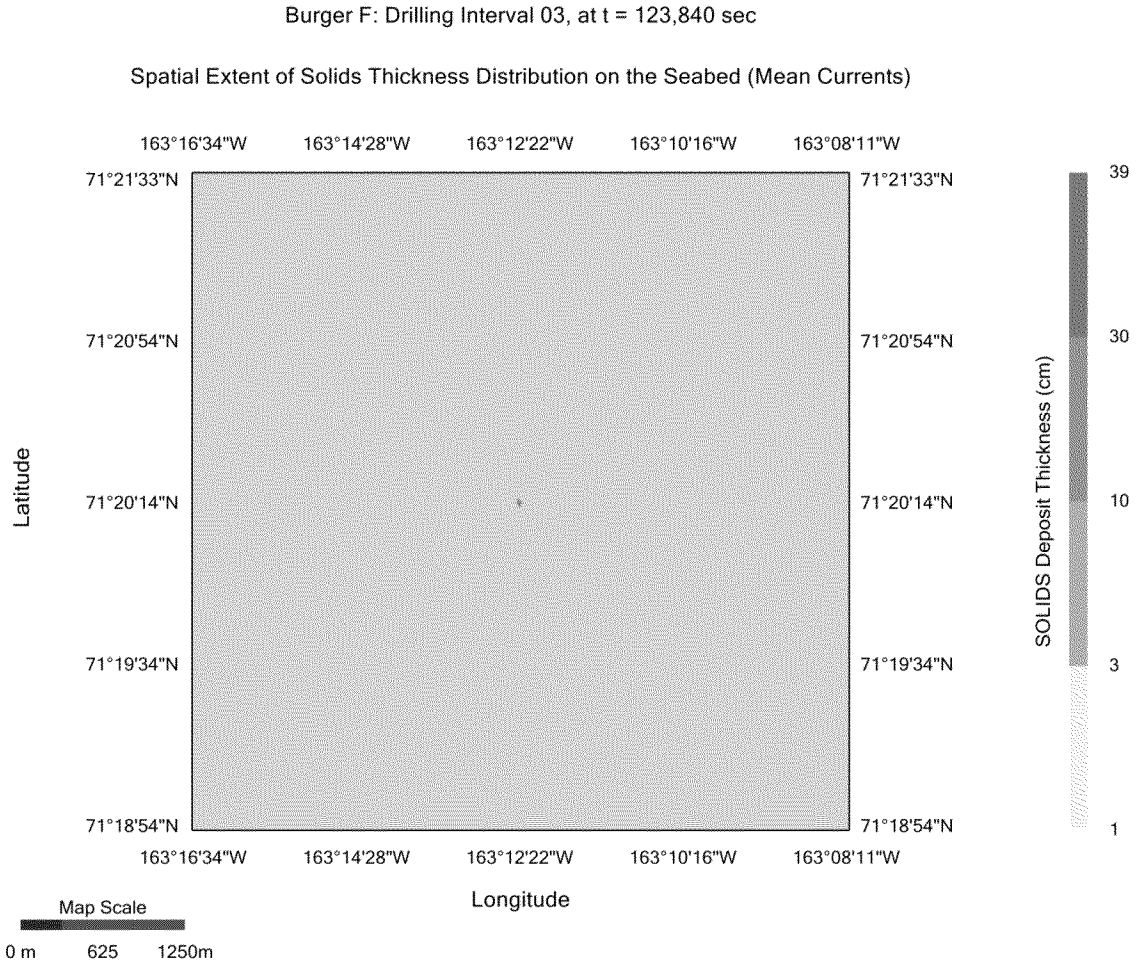
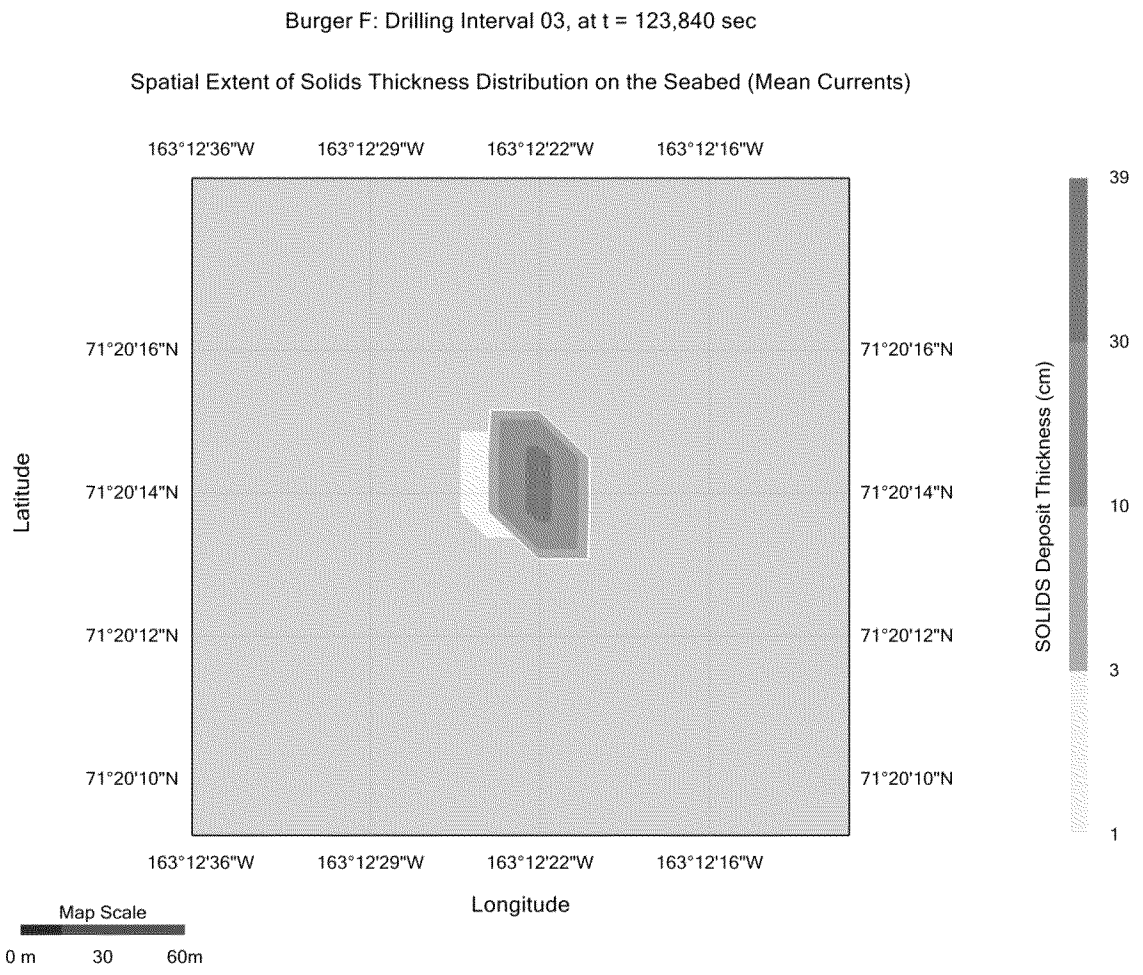


Figure 5-15b: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 03 (Zoom In View)



5.4 Model Results for Sea Surface Discharge Scenario – Drilling Interval 04

Trajectory and Shape of the Discharge Plume

The trajectory of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 5-16**. The depth of water is **45.0** m and the discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m below the sea surface. The heavier plume travels approximately **4.5** m from the discharge location before collapsing into the ambient sea water due to the higher density of the discharge plume. The shape and width of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 5-17**. The width of the plume is approximately **6.9** m at a distance **4.5** m from the discharge location. The solid lines present the outer boundaries and dotted line presents the center line of the discharge plume in Figures **5-16** and **5-17**.

Figure 5-16: Trajectory of the discharge plume at mean currents, Drilling Interval 04

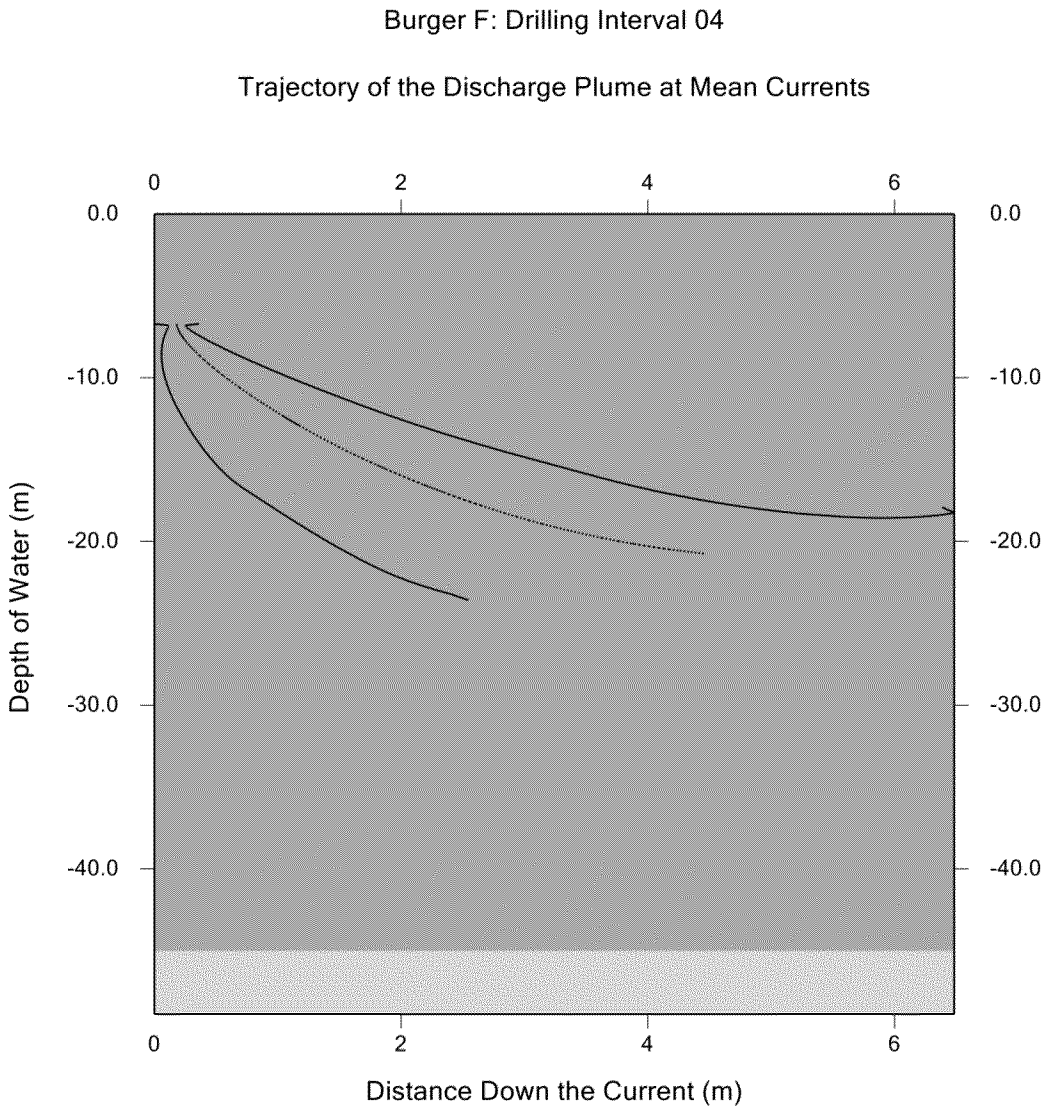
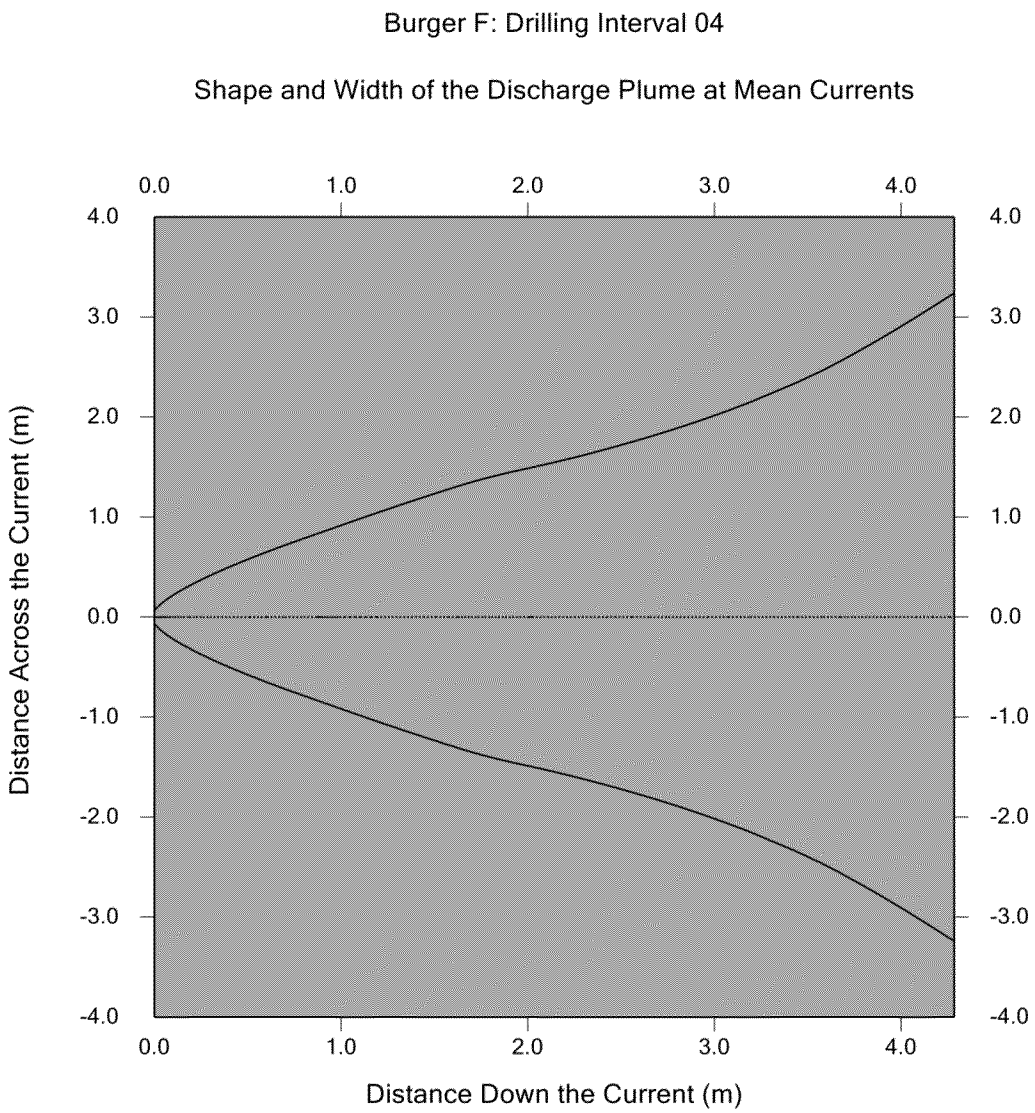


Figure 5-17: Shape and width of the discharge plume at mean currents, Drilling Interval 04

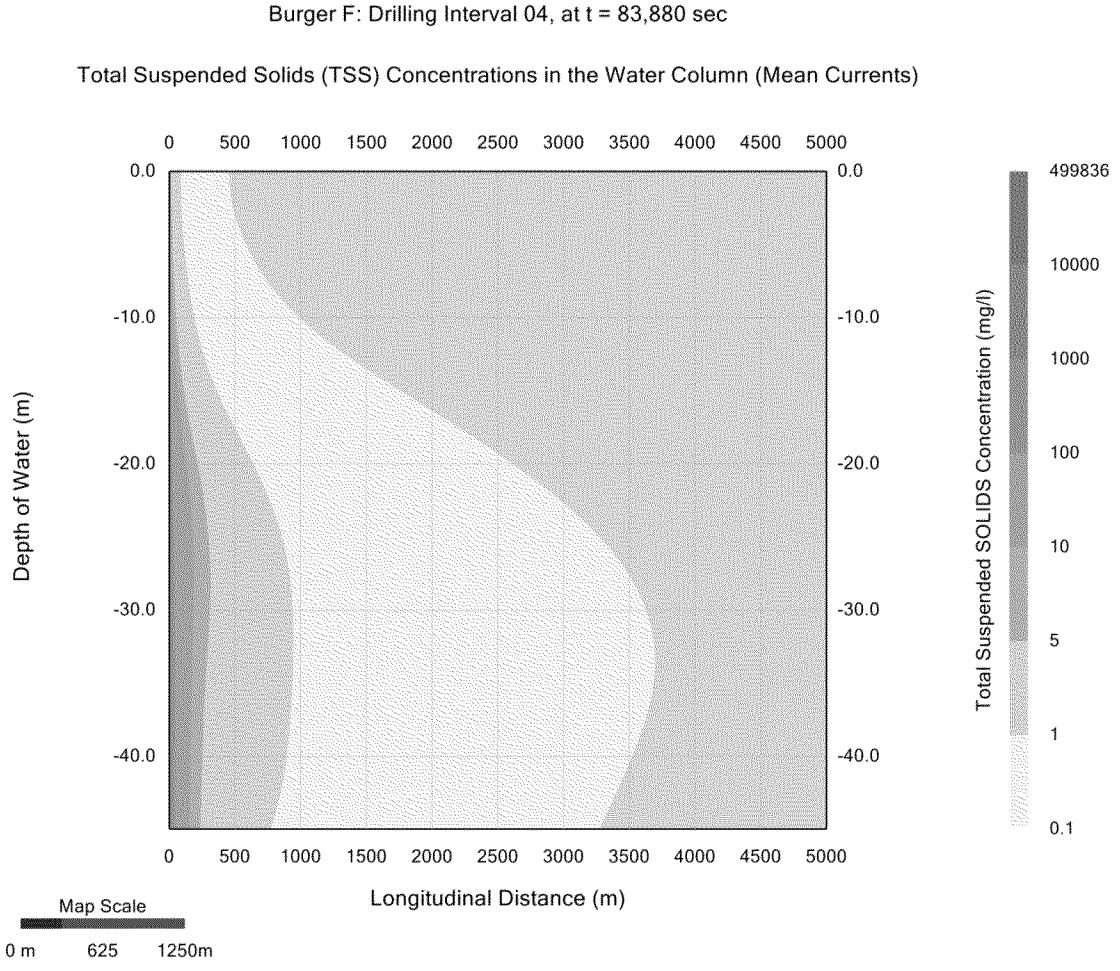


TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE WATER COLUMN

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column at time, t = **83,880** sec (or **23.3** hours) which is the discharge duration for this drilling interval is presented in **Figure 5-18a**. The depth of water is **45.0** m at the discharge location. The discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m from a **14.25** inches internal diameter discharge pipe. Figure **5-18**a presents the maximum TSS concentrations attained during the discharge. The color filled contours present the variations of the TSS concentrations both with respect to the depth from the sea surface andthe distance from the source by different color bands. The maximum TSS concentration **499,836** mg/l occurs at the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **100** and **10** mg/l at distances approximately: **50** and **190** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **10** to **5** mg/l between **190** and **320** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **5** to **1** mg/l between **320** and **950** m distances from the source. It is less than **1** mg/l beyond **950** m from the discharge location.

The maximum TSS concentrations at **10**-, **30**-, **100**-, **300**-, and **1000**-m from the discharge location are: **736.0**, **196.5**, **24.2**, **5.3**, and **0.9** mg/l, respectively.

Figure 5-18a: Total suspended solids concentrations in water column at mean currents, Drilling Interval 04



FATE AND TRANSPORT OF THE TSS

The discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids ceases at time, t = **83,880** sec (or **23.3** hours). The fate and transport of the discharged solids at times **6**, **12**, and **18** h after the cessation of the discharge are presented by **Figures 5-18**b**, 5-18**c**,** and **5-18**d. These figures show that the TSS concentrations within the **5.0** km model domain decrease to: **1** mg/l or less at **6** h, **1** mg/l or less at **12** h, and less than **0.1** mg/l at **18** h after the cessation of the discharge. Therefore, it can be described that the ambient TSS concentrations attains pre-existing conditions between **12** and **18** h after the cessation of the discharge based on the assumption that the ambient TSS value is equal to or more than **0.1** mg/l within the model domain.

Figure 5-18b: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 29.3 h (or 6 h after the cessation of release)

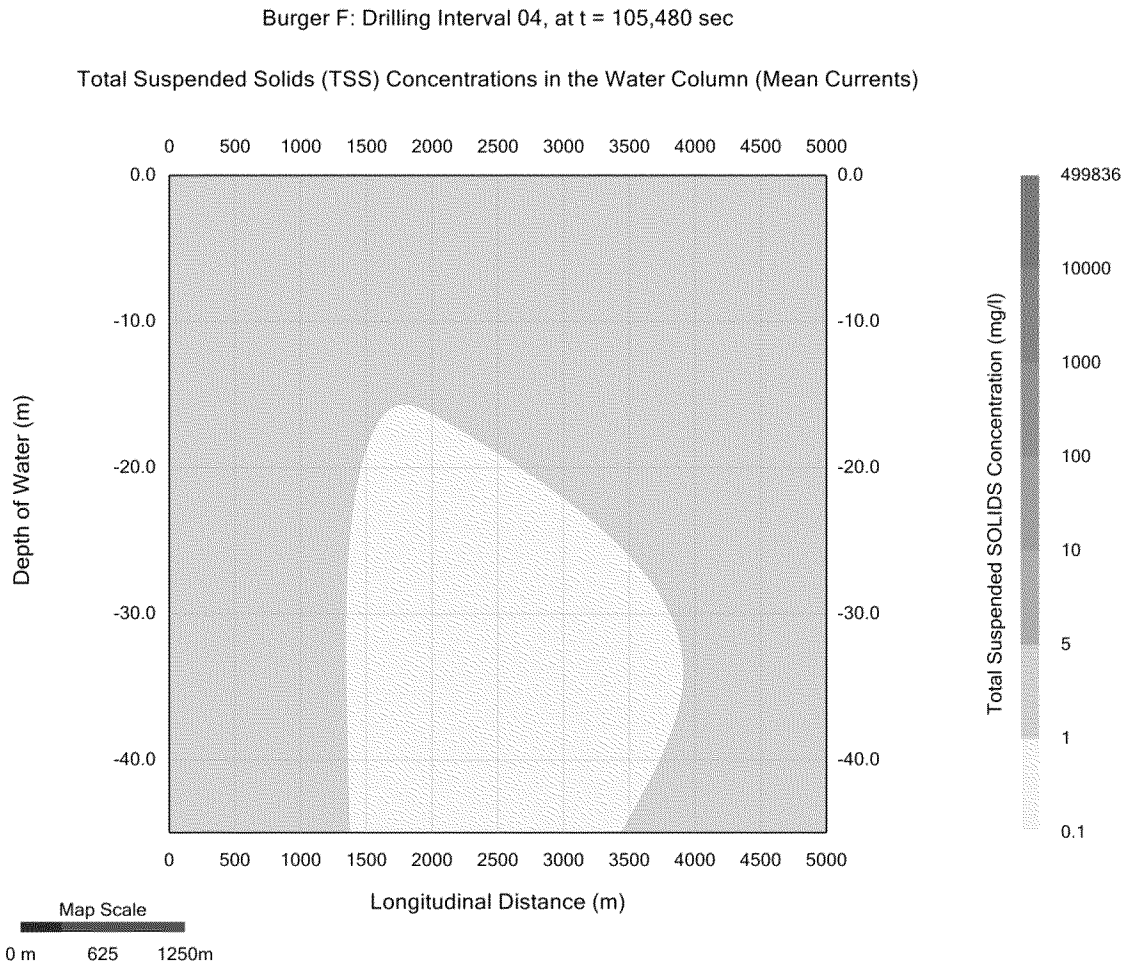


Figure 5-18c: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 35.3 h (or 12 h after the cessation of release)

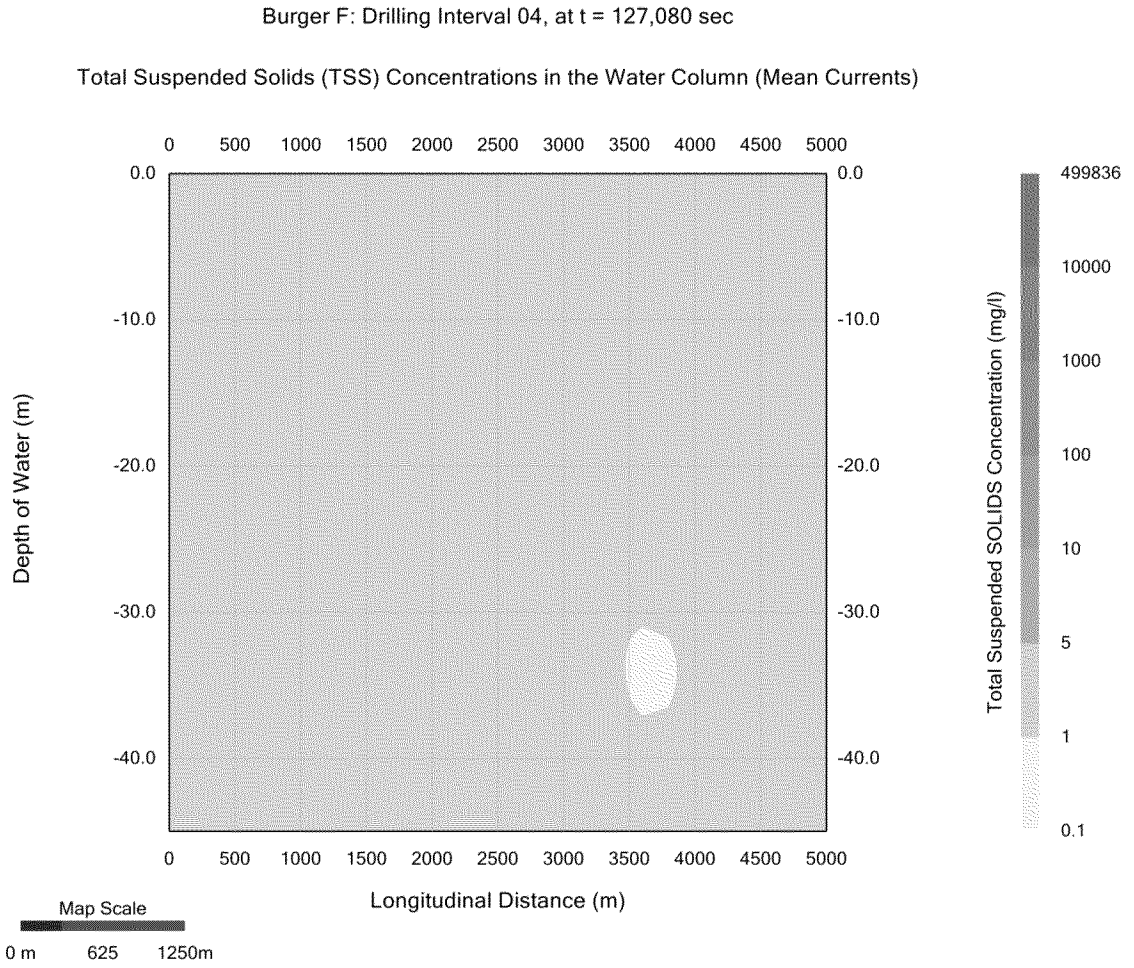
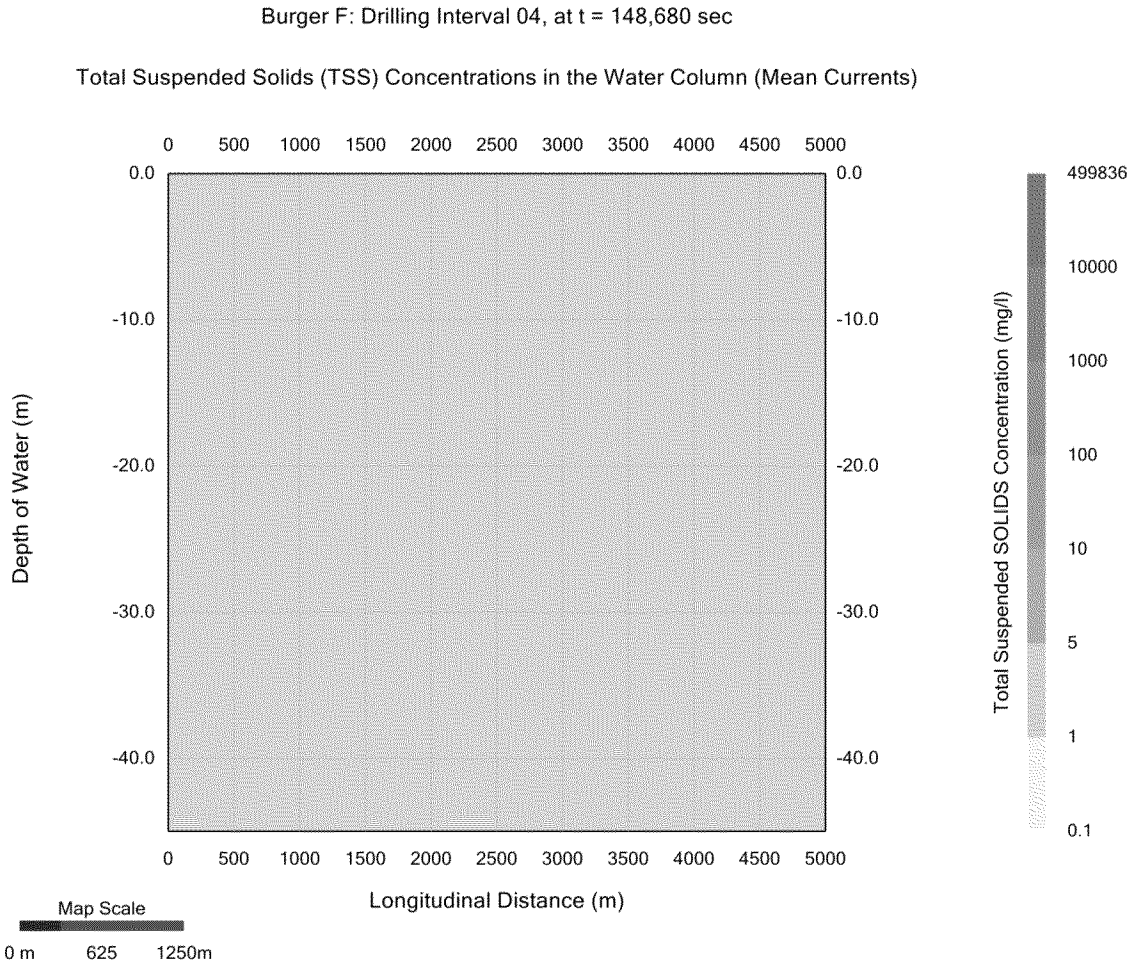


Figure 5-18d: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 41.3 h (or 18 h after the cessation of release)

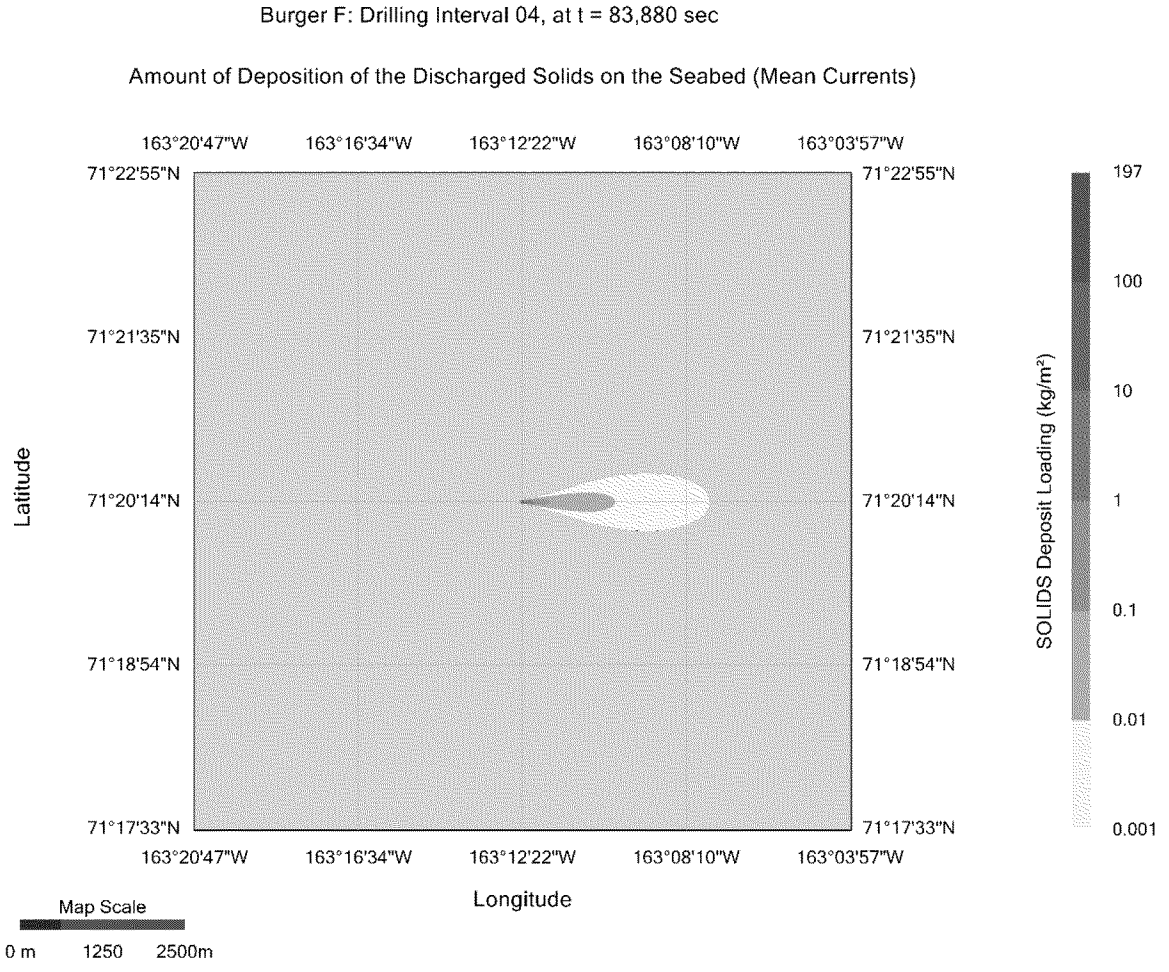


AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent and the amount of solids loading on the sea floor at time, t = **83,880** sec (or **23.3** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented **in Figure 5-19.** The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as shown in Figure **5-19**. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The maximum loading **196** kg/m^2 occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **10** kg/m^2 and **1** kg/m^2 at distances approximately **80** m and **200** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 approximately between **200** and **440** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **0.1** kg/m^2 to **0.01** kg/m^2 approximately between **440** m and **1,440** m distances from the discharge location. The loading is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **1,440** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **100**-, **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.114**, **0.343**, **0.824**, **4.948**, and **29.244** ha, respectively.

Figure 5-19: Amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 04



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of solids thickness of **1** cm or larger deposited on the sea floor at time, t = **83,880** sec (or **23.3** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figures 5-20a** and **5-20b**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular colorband. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. The solids deposited on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger as shown by a small dot, occurs on a very small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **5-20**a. The same result is presented in Figure **5-20**b but shows only **240** m x **240** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation of **1** cm or larger on the seabed. The maximum deposit thickness of **13.5** cm occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **70** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately an **80** m x **40** m rectangle area (or **0.323** ha) as presented in Figure **5-20**b. The sea floor areas affected by deposit thickness larger than **10**- and **1**-cm are: **0.098** and **0.323** ha, respectively.

Figure 5-20a: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 04

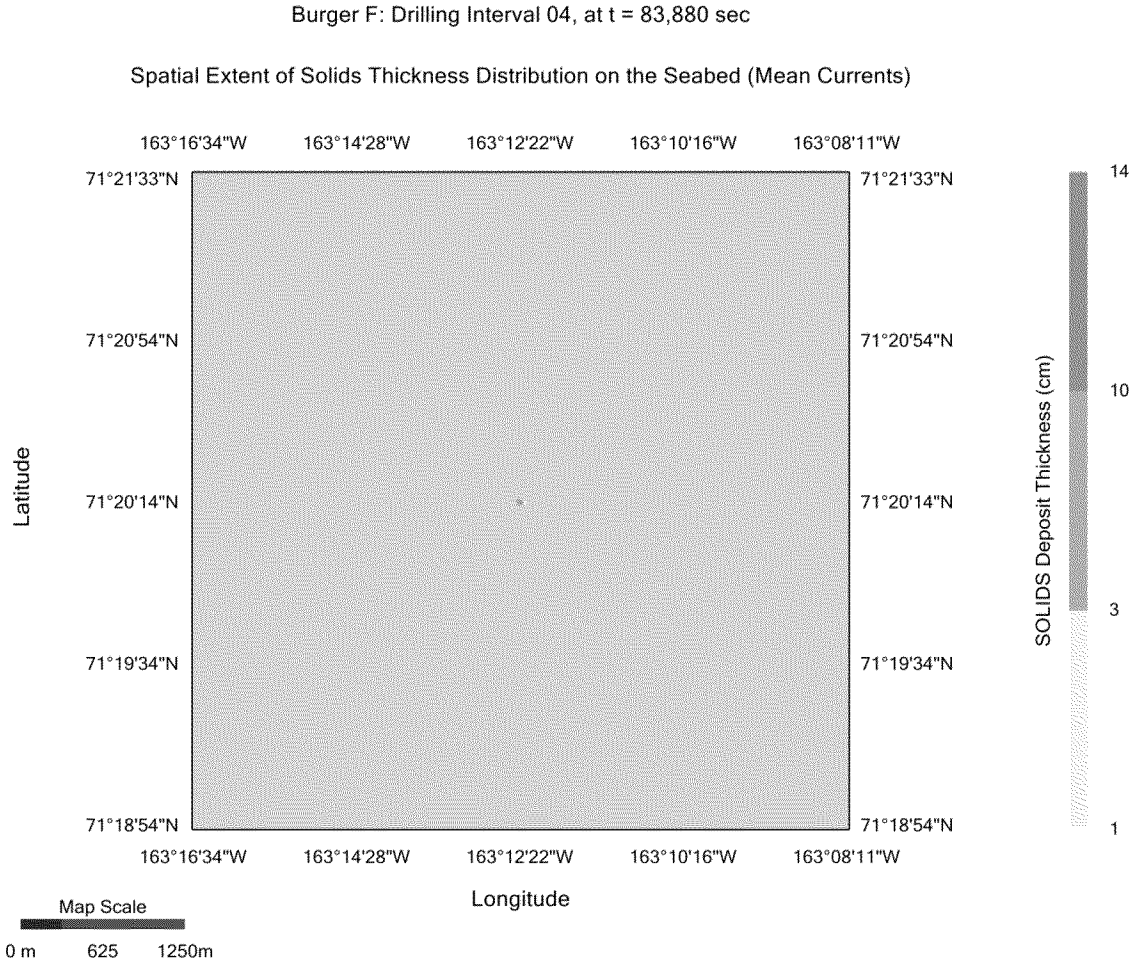
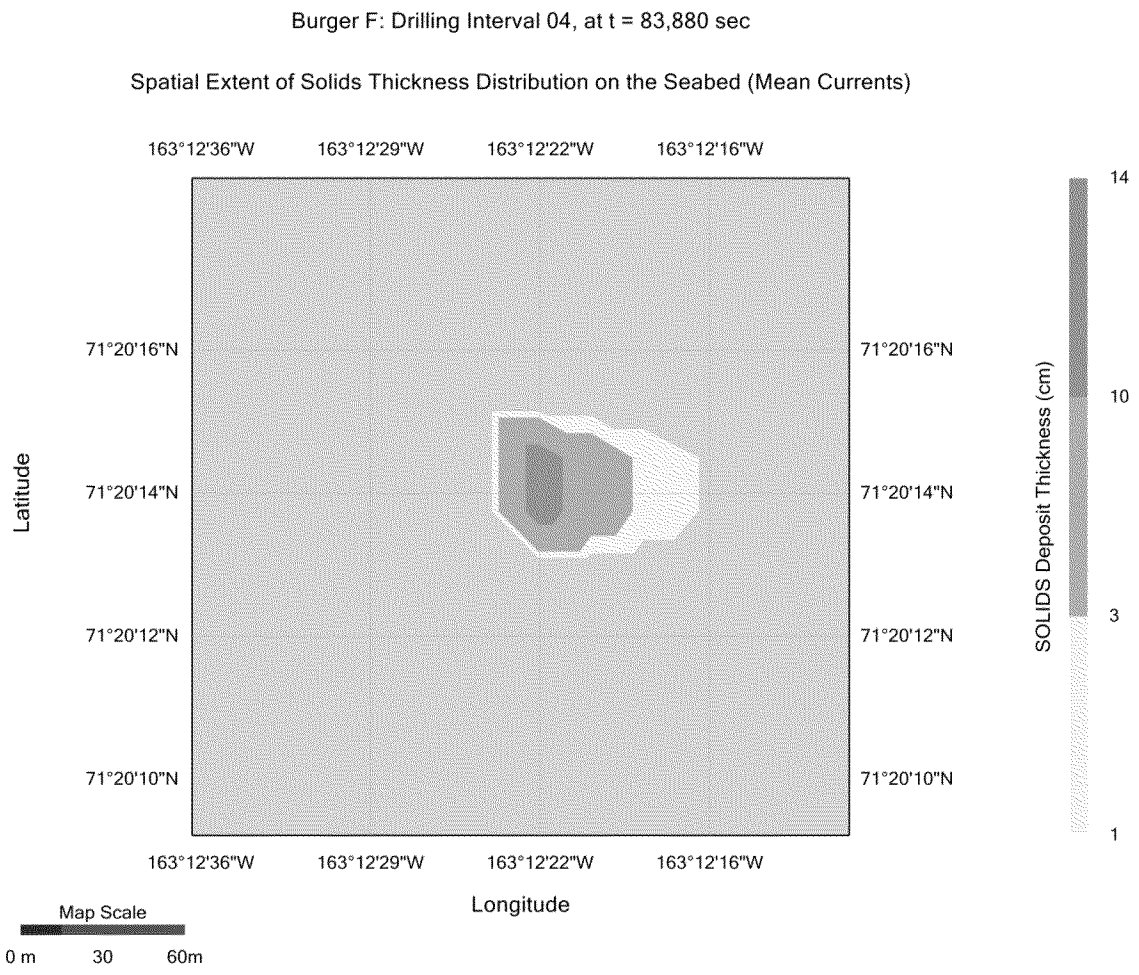


Figure 5-20b: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 04 (Zoom In View)



5.5 Model Results for Sea Surface Discharge Scenario – Drilling Interval 05

Trajectory and Shape of the Discharge Plume

The trajectory of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 5-21**. The depth of water is **45.0** m and the discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m below the sea surface. The heavier plume travels approximately **3.5** m from the discharge location before collapsing into the ambient sea water due to the higher density of the discharge plume. The shape and width of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 5-22**. The width of the plume is approximately **4.0** m at a distance **3.5** m from the discharge location. The solid lines present the outer boundaries and dotted line presents the center line of the discharge plume in Figures **5-21** and **5-22**.

Figure 5-21: Trajectory of the discharge plume at mean currents, Drilling Interval 05

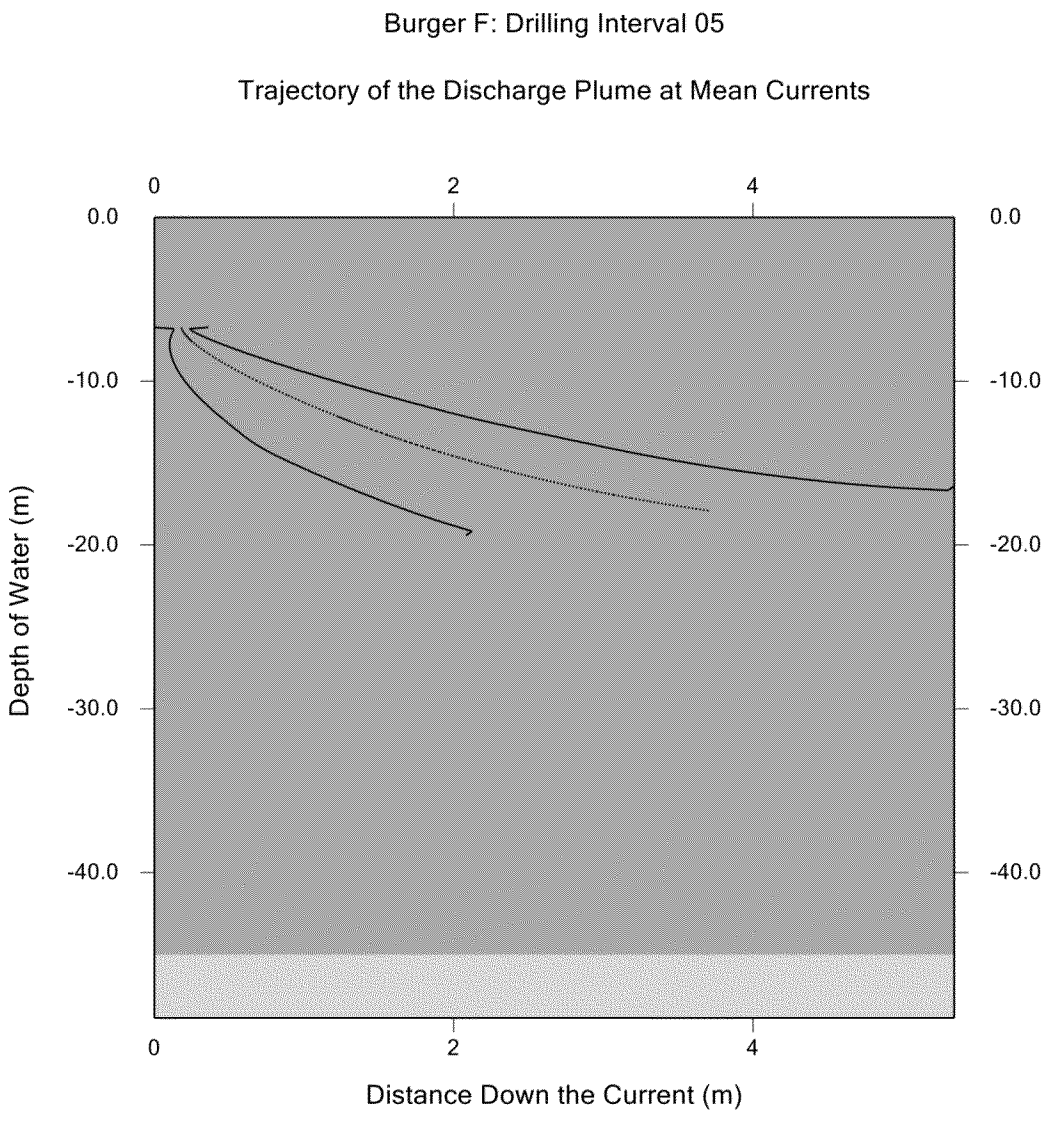
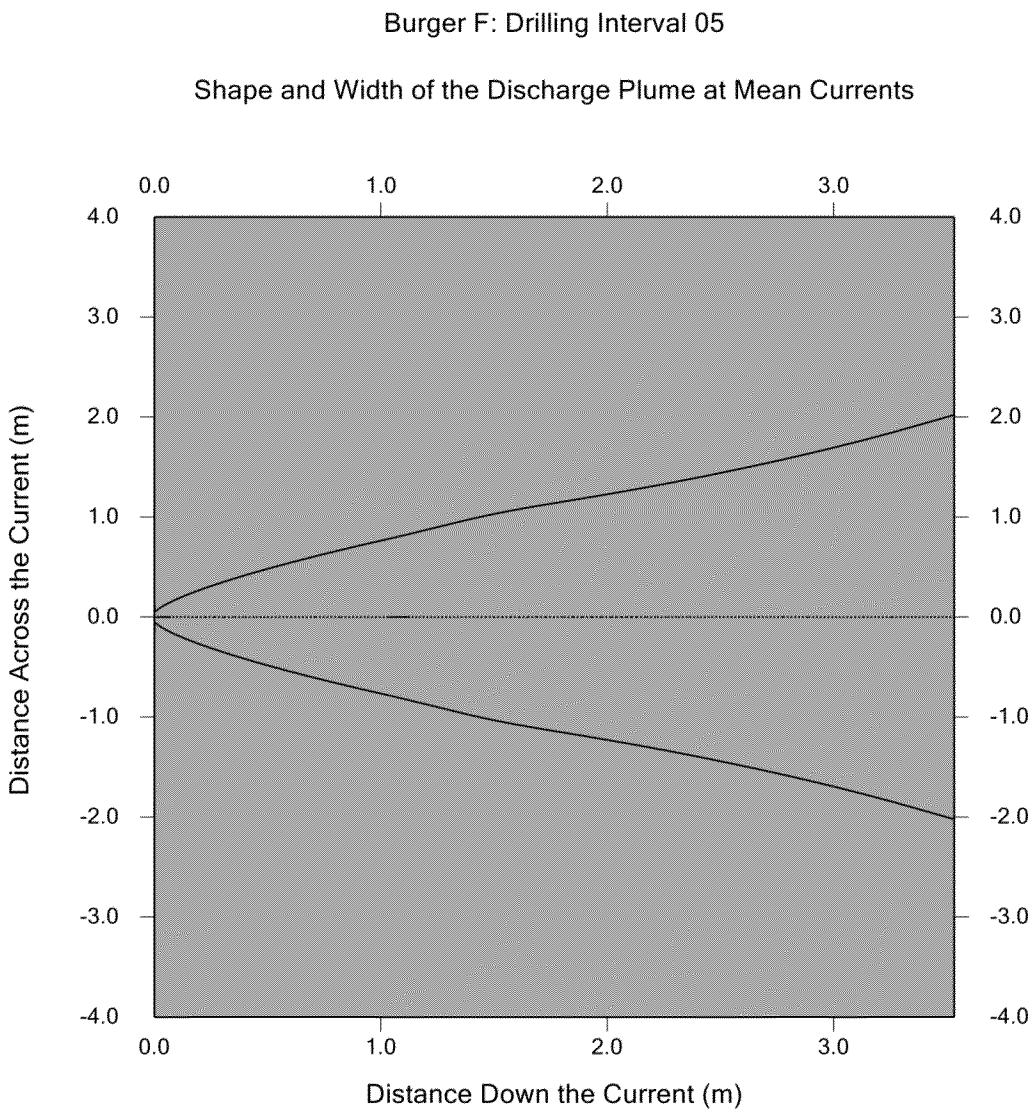


Figure 5-22: Shape and width of the discharge plume at mean currents, Drilling Interval 05

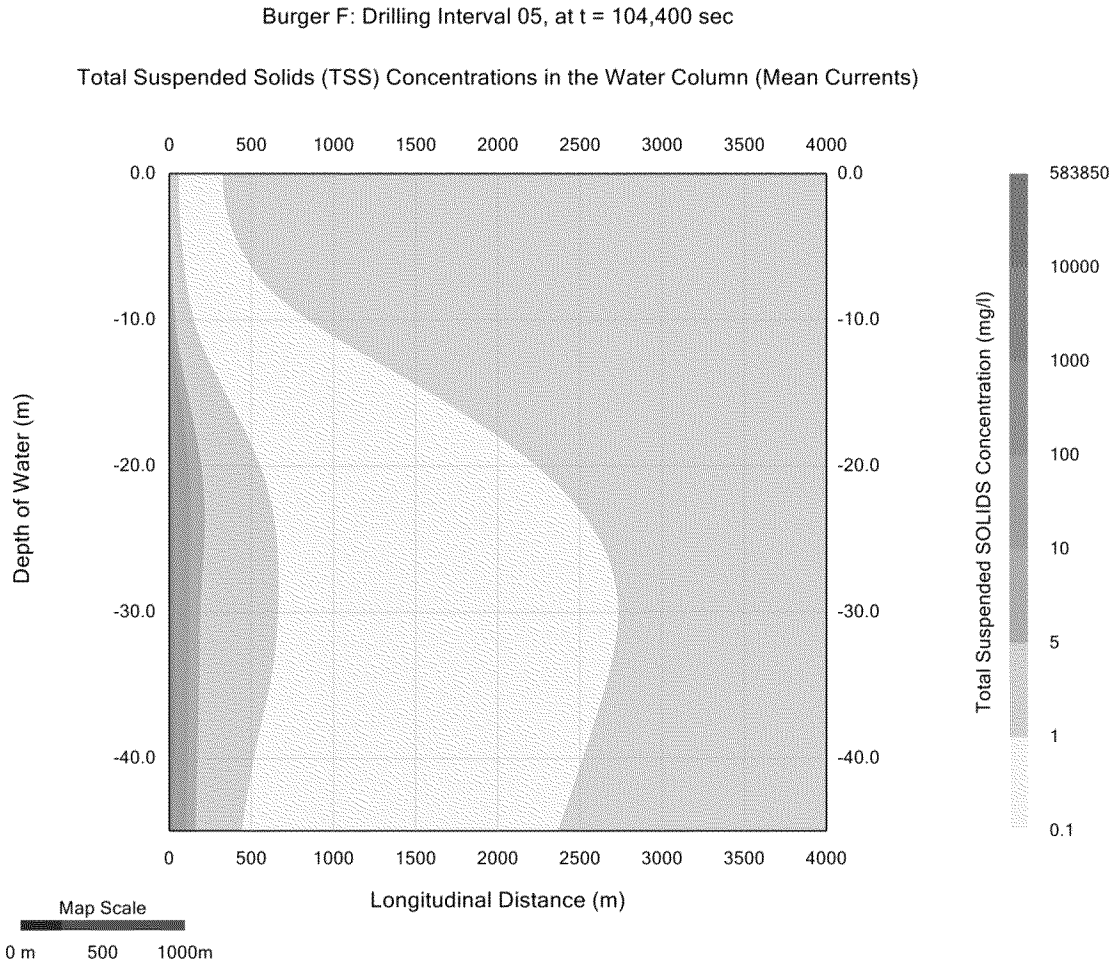


TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE WATER COLUMN

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column at time, t = **104,400** sec (or **29.0** hours) which is the discharge duration for this drilling interval is presented in **Figure 5-23a**. The depth of water is **45.0** m at the discharge location. The discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m from a **14.25** inches internal diameter discharge pipe. Figure **5-23**a presents the maximum TSS concentrations attained during the discharge. The color filled contours present the variations of the TSS concentrations both with respect to the depth from the sea surface and the distance from the source by different color bands. The maximum TSS concentration **583,850** mg/l occurs at the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **100** and **10** mg/l at distances approximately: **35** and **130** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **10** to **5** mg/l between **130** and **220** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **5** to **1** mg/l between **220** and **670** m distances from the source. It is less than **1** mg/l beyond **670** m from the discharge location.

The maximum TSS concentrations at **10**-, **30**-, **100**-, **300**-, and **1000**-m from the discharge location are: **493.4**, **118.2**, **14.3**, **3.2**, and **0.5** mg/l, respectively.

Figure 5-23a: Total suspended solids concentrations in water column at mean currents, Drilling Interval 05



FATE AND TRANSPORT OF THE TSS

The discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids ceases at time, t = **104**,**400** sec (or **29.0** hours). The fate and transport of the discharged solids at times **6** and **12** h after the cessation of the discharge are presented by **Figures 5-23b** and **5-23c**. These figures show that the TSS concentrations within the **5.0** km model domain decrease to: **1** mg/l or less at **6** h and less than **0.1** mg/l at **12** h after the cessation of the discharge. Therefore, it can be described that the ambient TSS concentrations attains pre-existing conditions between **6** and **12** h after the cessation of the discharge based on the assumption that the ambient TSS value is equal to or more than **0.1** mg/l within the model domain.

Figure 5-23b: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 35 h (or 6 h after the cessation of release)

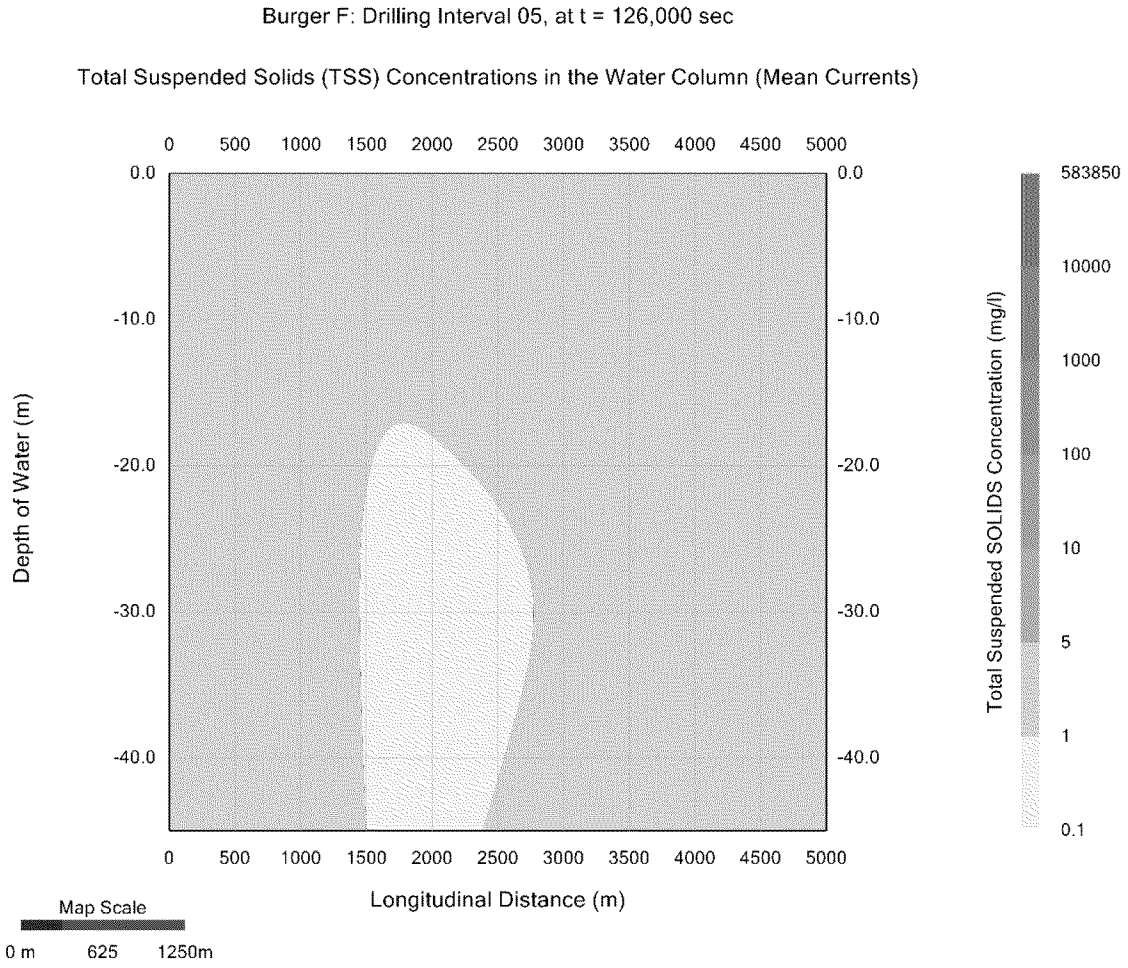
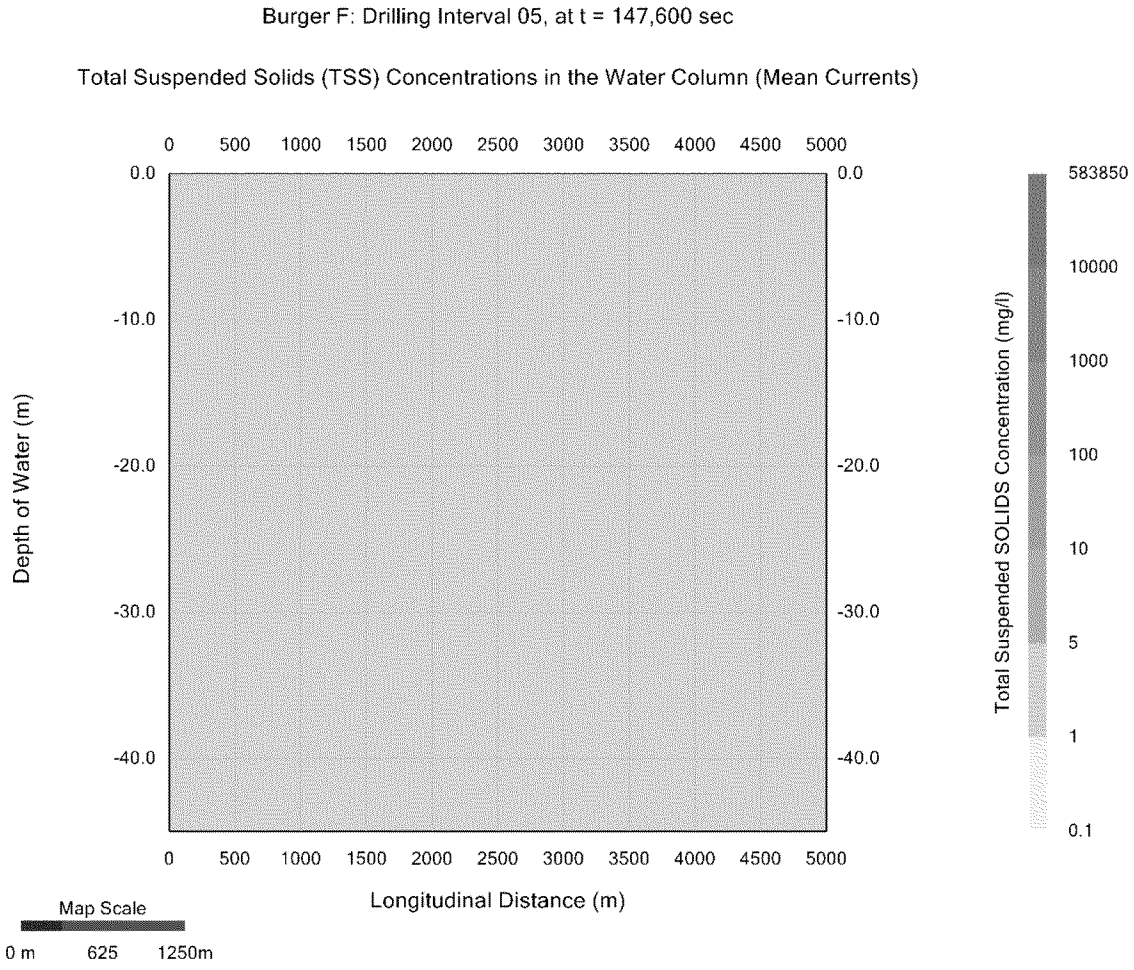


Figure 5-23c: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 41 h (or 12 h after the cessation of release)

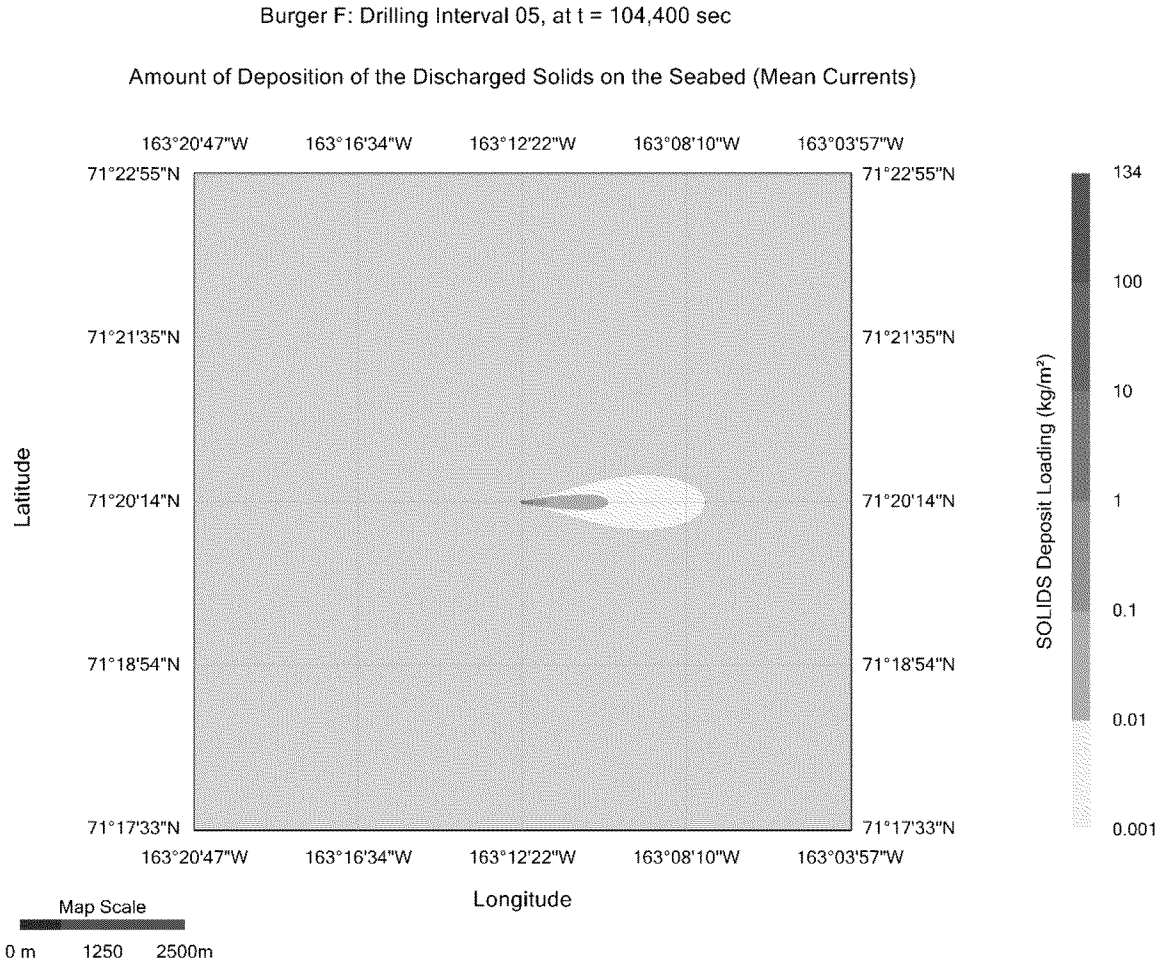


AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent and the amount of solids loading on the sea floor at time, t = **104,400** sec (or **29.0** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figure 5-24**. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as shown in Figure **5-24**. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The maximum loading **133** kg/m^2 occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **10** kg/m^2 and **1** kg/m^2 at distances approximately **80** m and **180** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 approximately between **180** and **400** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **0.1** kg/m^2 to **0.01** kg/ m^2 approximately between **400** and **1,330** m distances from the discharge location. The loading is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **1,330** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **100**-, **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.098**, **0.333**, **0.751**, **4.445**, and **22.896** ha, respectively.

Figure 5-24a: Amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 05



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of solids thickness of **1** cm or larger deposited on the sea floor at time, t = **104,400** sec (or **29.0** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figures 5-25a** and **5-25b**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular color band. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. The solids deposited on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger as shown by a small dot, occurs on a very small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **5-25**a. The same result is presented in Figure **5-25**b but shows only **240** m x **240** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation of **1** cm or larger on the seabed. The maximum deposit thickness of **8.7** cm occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **65** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **70** m x **40** m rectangle area (or **0.271** ha) as presented in Figure **5-25**b.

Figure 5-25a: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 05

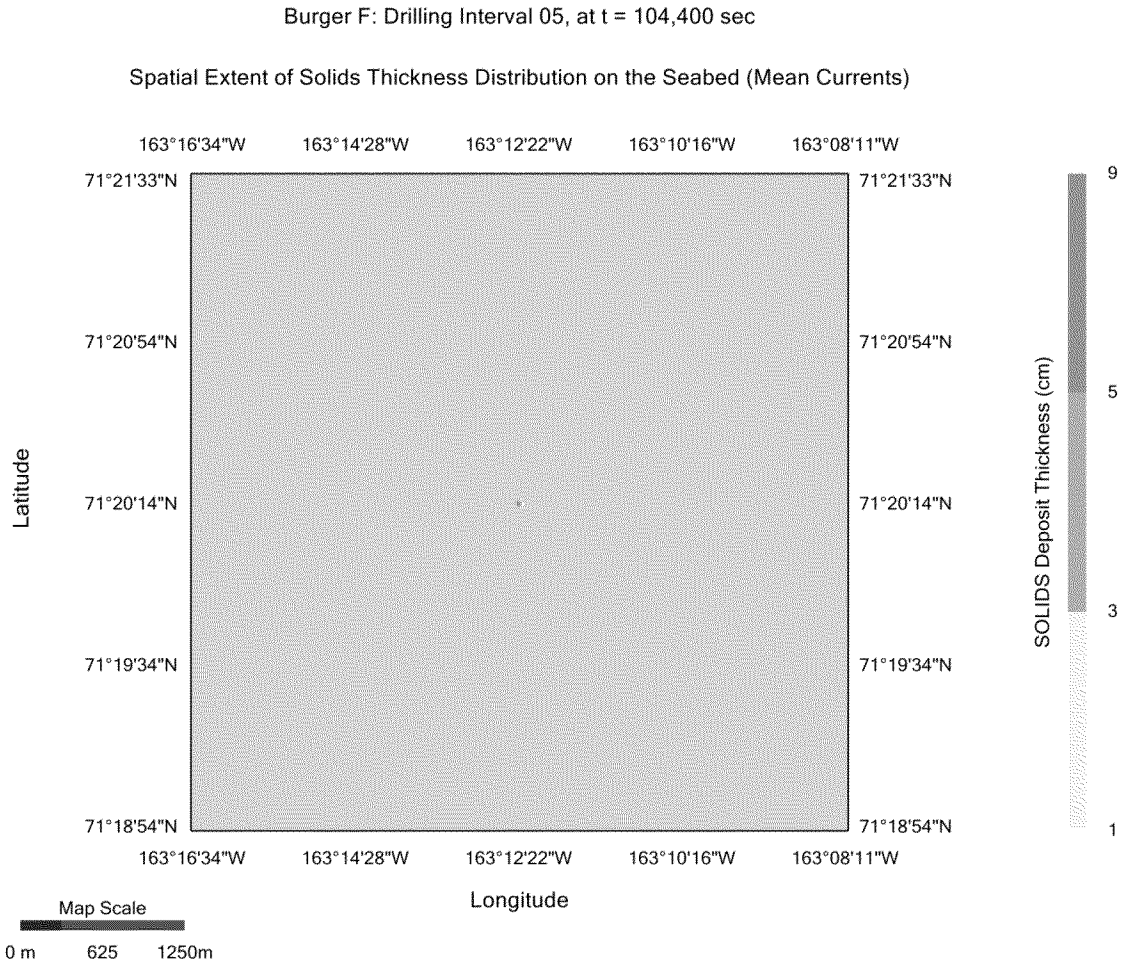
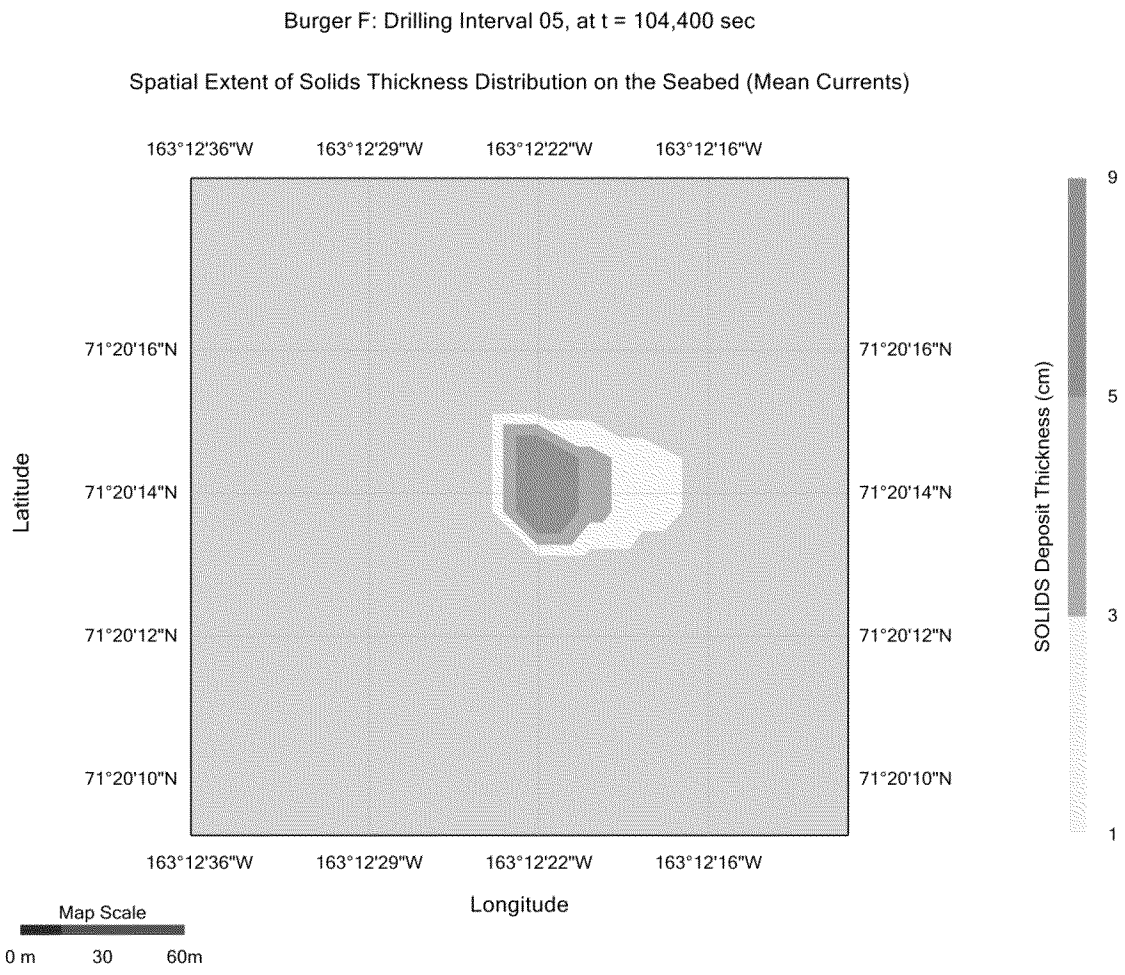


Figure 5-25b: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 05 (Zoom In View)



5.6 Model Results for Sea Surface Discharge Scenario – Drilling Interval 06

Trajectory and Shape of the Discharge Plume

The trajectory of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 5-26**. The depth of water is **45.0** m and the discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m below the sea surface. The heavier plume travels approximately **3.0** m from the discharge location before collapsing into the ambient sea water due to the higher density of the discharge plume. The shape and width of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 5-27**. The width of the plume is approximately **2.6** m at a distance **3.0** m from the discharge location. The solid lines present the outer boundaries and dotted line presents the center line of the discharge plume in Figures **5-26** and **5-27**.

Figure 5-26: Trajectory of the discharge plume at mean currents, Drilling Interval 06

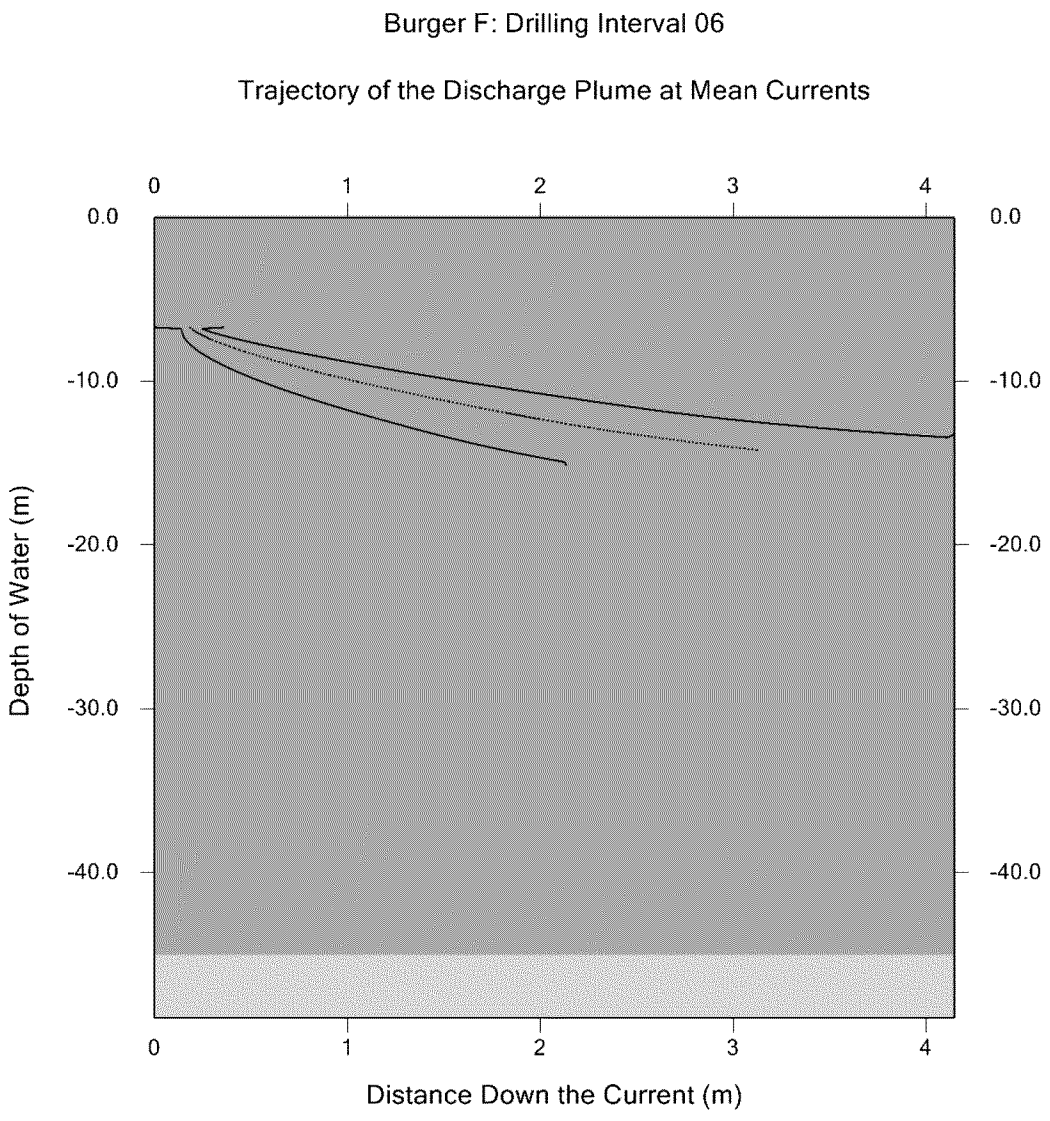
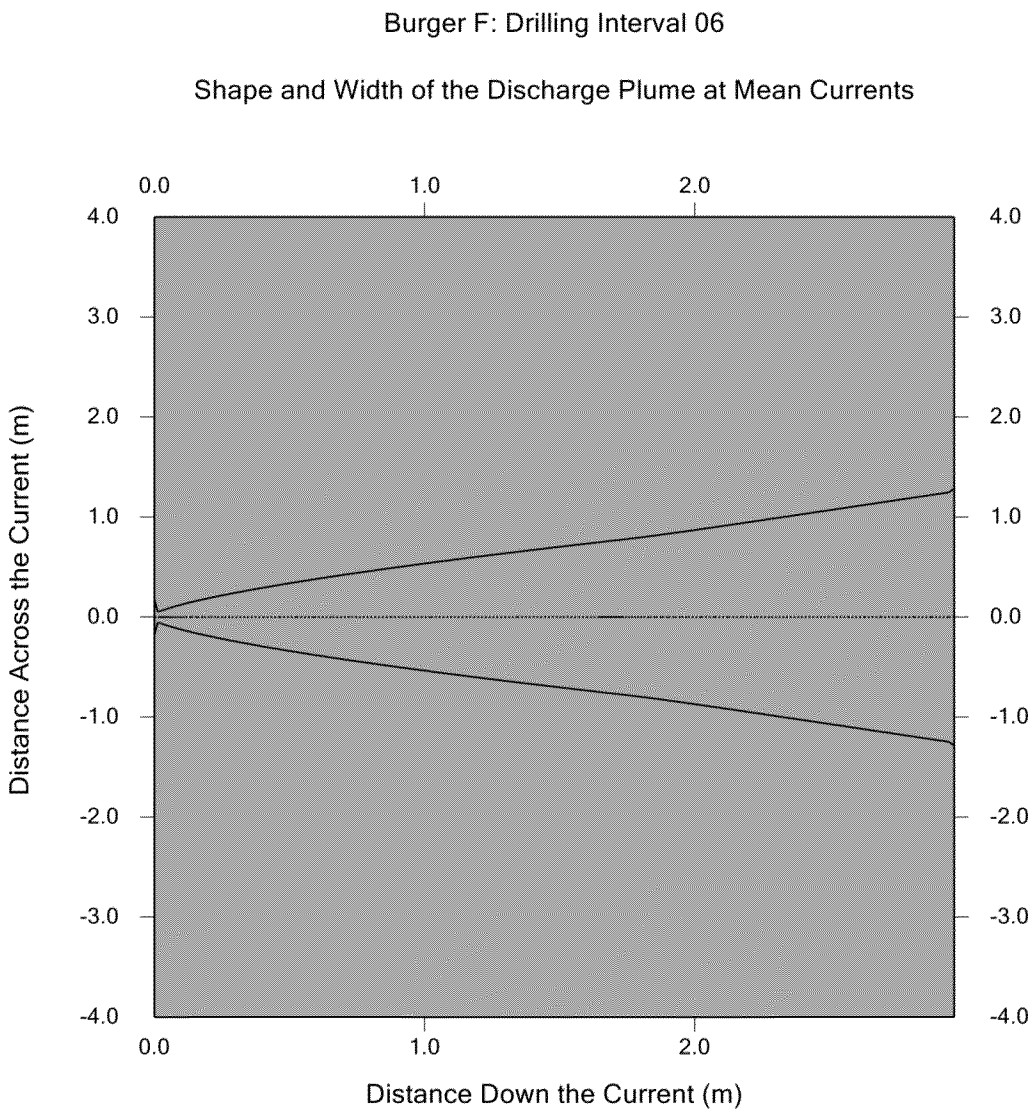


Figure 5-27: Shape and width of the discharge plume at mean currents, Drilling Interval 06

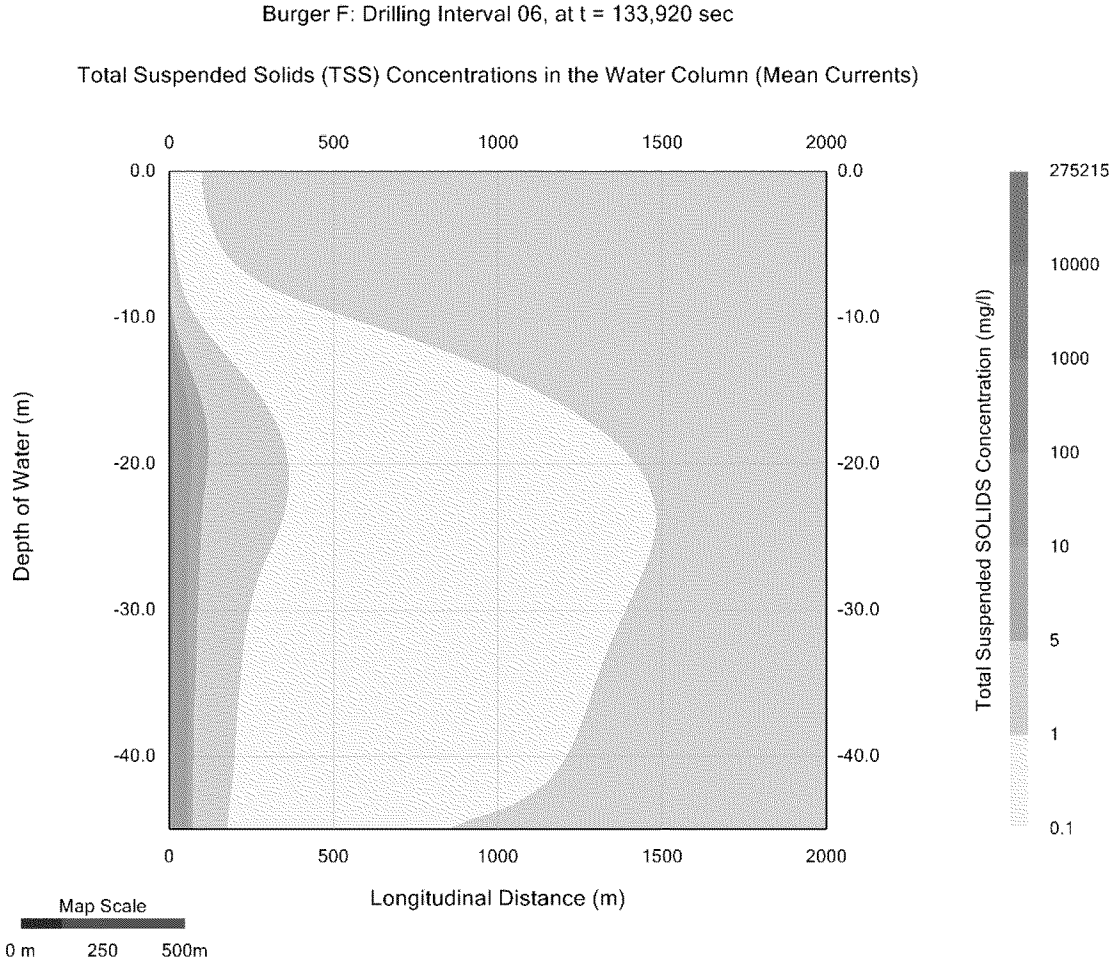


TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE WATER COLUMN

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column at time, t = **133,920** sec (or **37.2** hours) which is the discharge duration for this drilling interval is presented in **Figure 5-28**a. The depth of water is **45.0** m at the discharge location. The discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m from a **14.25** inches internal diameter discharge pipe. Figure **5-28**a presents the maximum TSS concentrations attained during the discharge. The color filled contours present the variations of the TSS concentrations both with respect to the depth from the sea surface and the distance from the source by different color bands. The maximum TSS concentration **275,215** mg/l occurs at the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **100** and **10** mg/l at distances approximately: **15** and **70** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **10** to **5** mg/l between **70** m and **120** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **5** to **1** mg/l between **120** m and **365** m distances from the discharge location. It is less than **1** mg/l beyond **365** m from the discharge location.

The maximum TSS concentrations at **10**-, **30**-, **100**-, **300**-, and **1000**-m from the discharge location are: **177.4**, **37.6**, **6.4**, **1.4**, and **0.2** mg/l, respectively.

Figure 5-28a: Total suspended solids concentrations in water column at mean currents, Drilling Interval 06



FATE AND TRANSPORT OF THE TSS

The discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids ceases at time, t = **133**,**920** sec (or **37**.**2** hours). The fate and transport of the discharged solids at times **1**, **2**, **3**, **4,** and **5** h after the cessation of the discharge are presented by Figures **5**-**28**b, **5**-**28**c, **5**-**28**d, **5**-**28**e, and **5**-**28**f, These figures show that the TSS concentrations within the **5.0** km model domain decrease to: **5** mg/l or less at **1** h, **1** mg/l or less at **2** h, **1** mg/l or less at **3** h, **1** mg/l or less at **4** h, and less than **0**.**1** mg/l at **5** h after the cessation of the discharge. Therefore, it can be described that the ambient TSS concentrations attains pre-existing conditions between **4** and **5** h after the cessation of the discharge based on the assumption that the ambient TSS value is equal to or more than**0**.**1** mg/l within the model domain.

Figure 5-28b: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 38.2 h (or 1 h after the cessation of release)

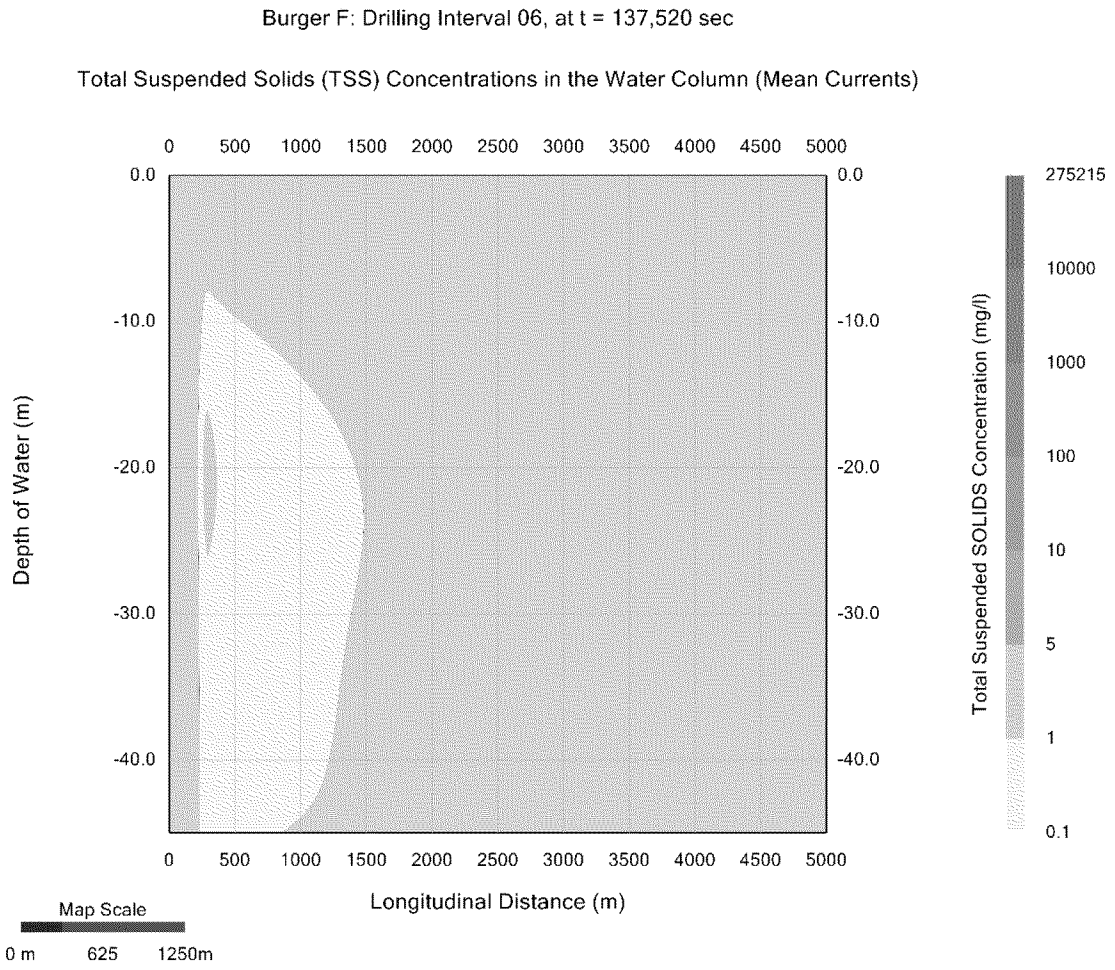


Figure 5-28c: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 39.2 h (or 2 h after the cessation of release)

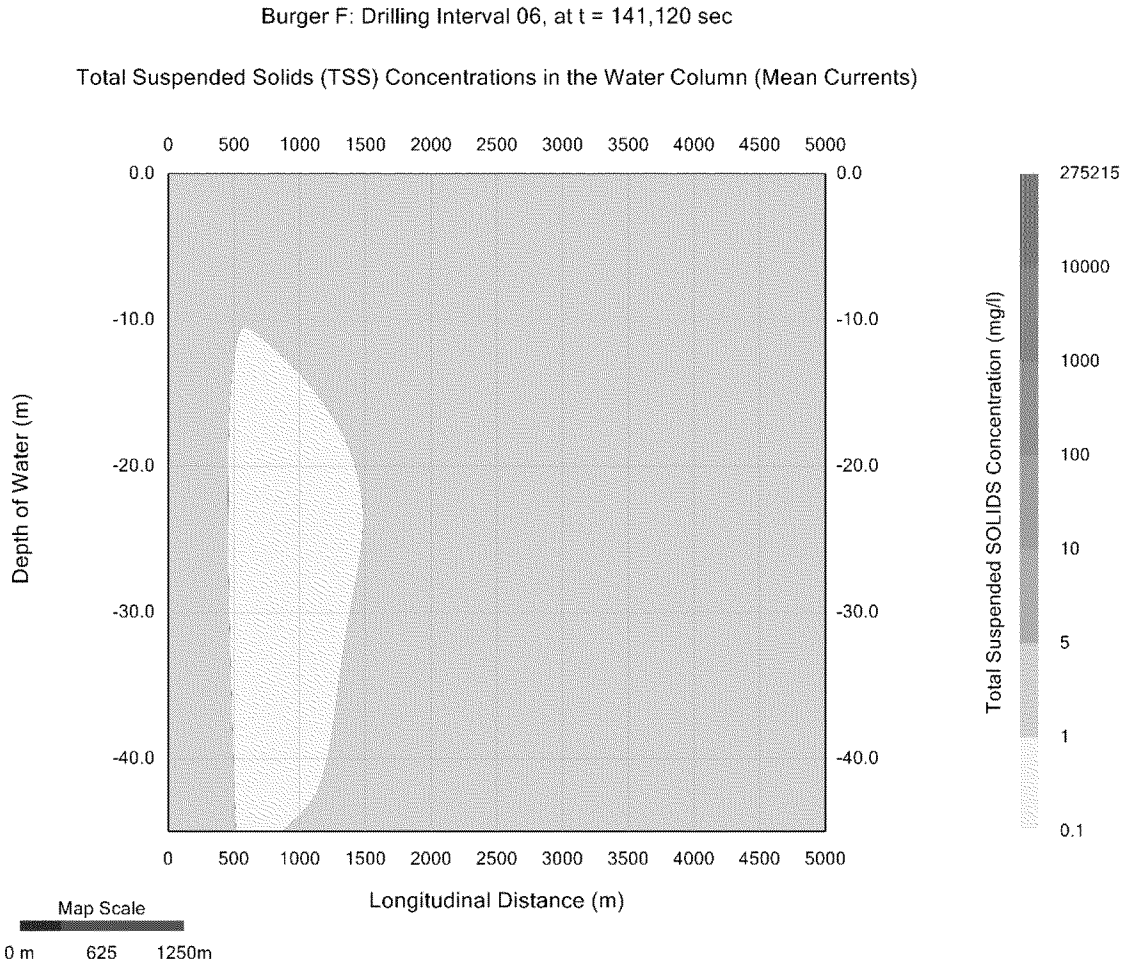


Figure 5-28d: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 40.2 h (or 3 h after the cessation of release)

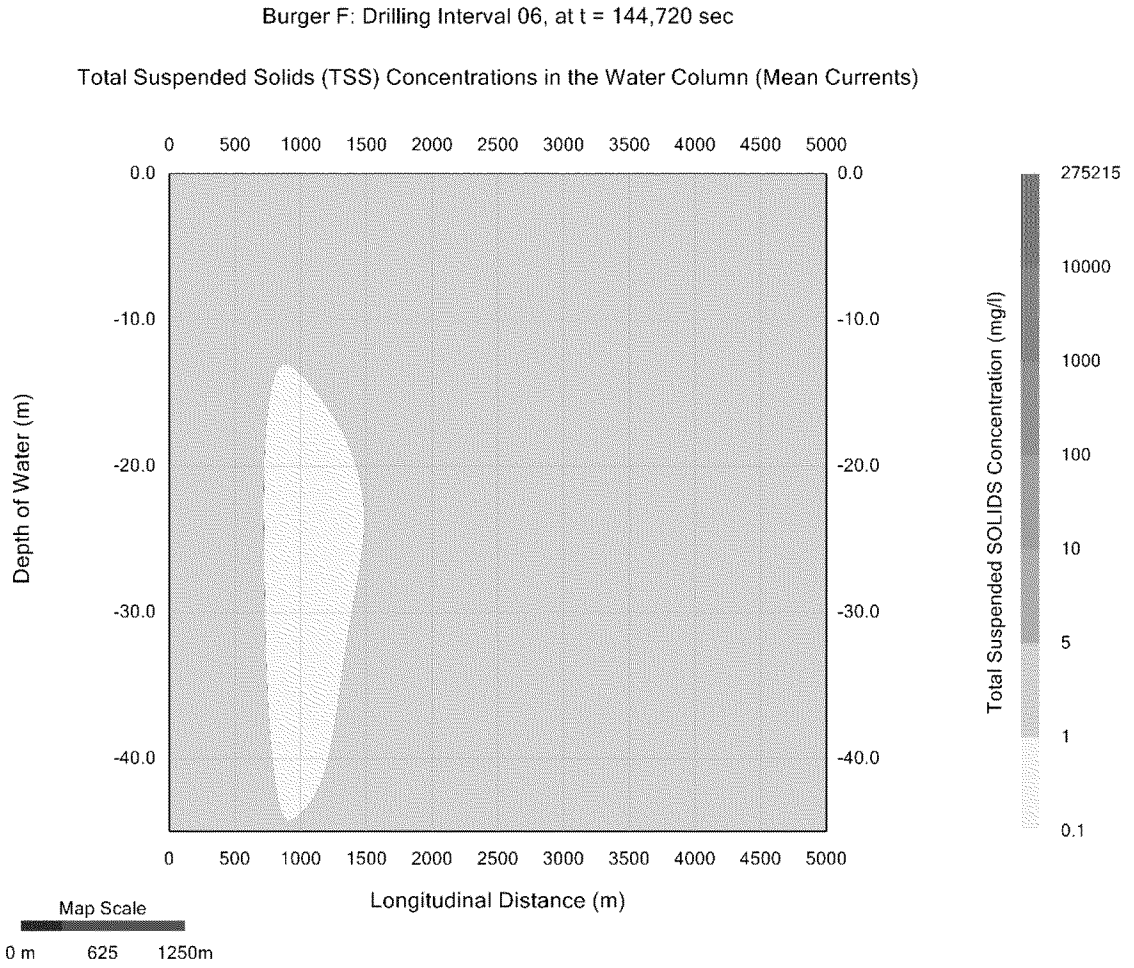


Figure 5-28e: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 41.2 h (or 4 h after the cessation of release)

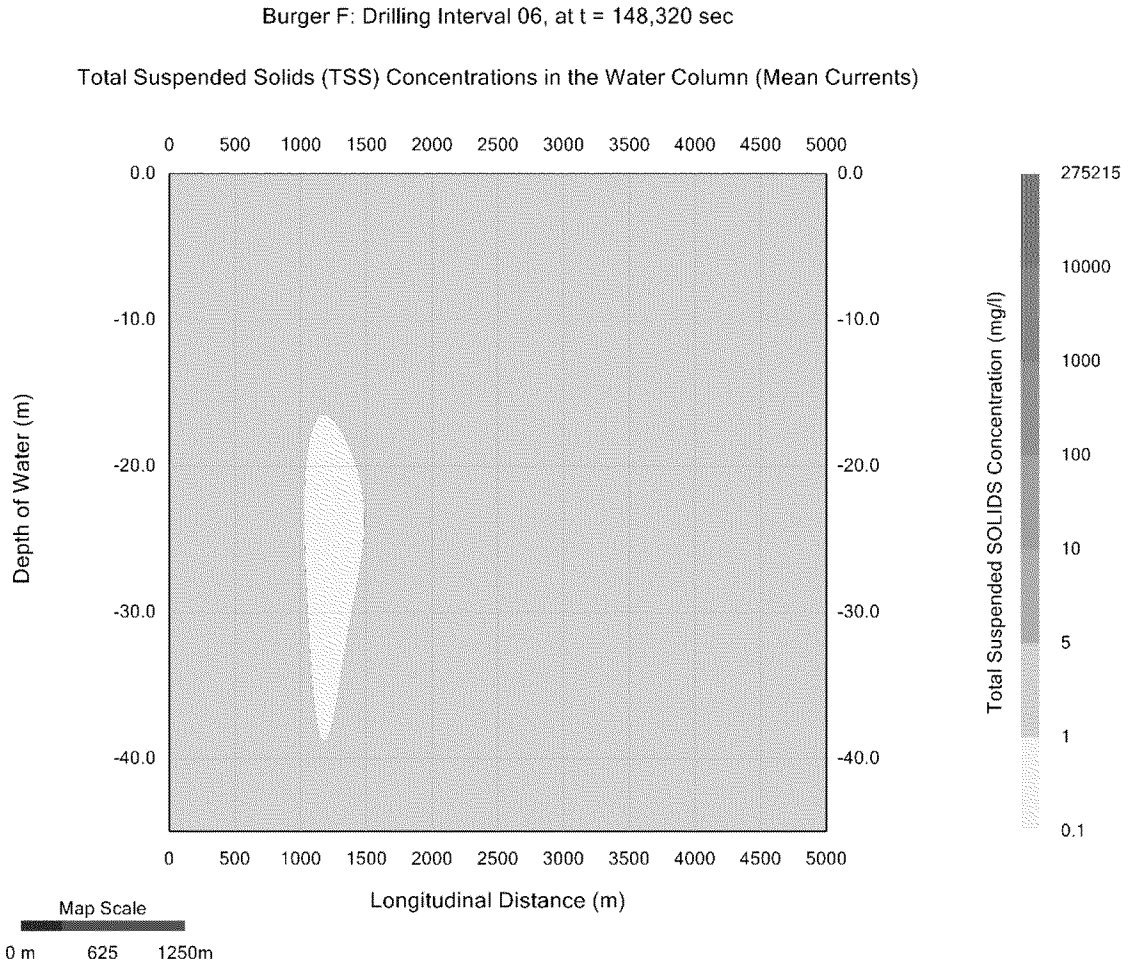
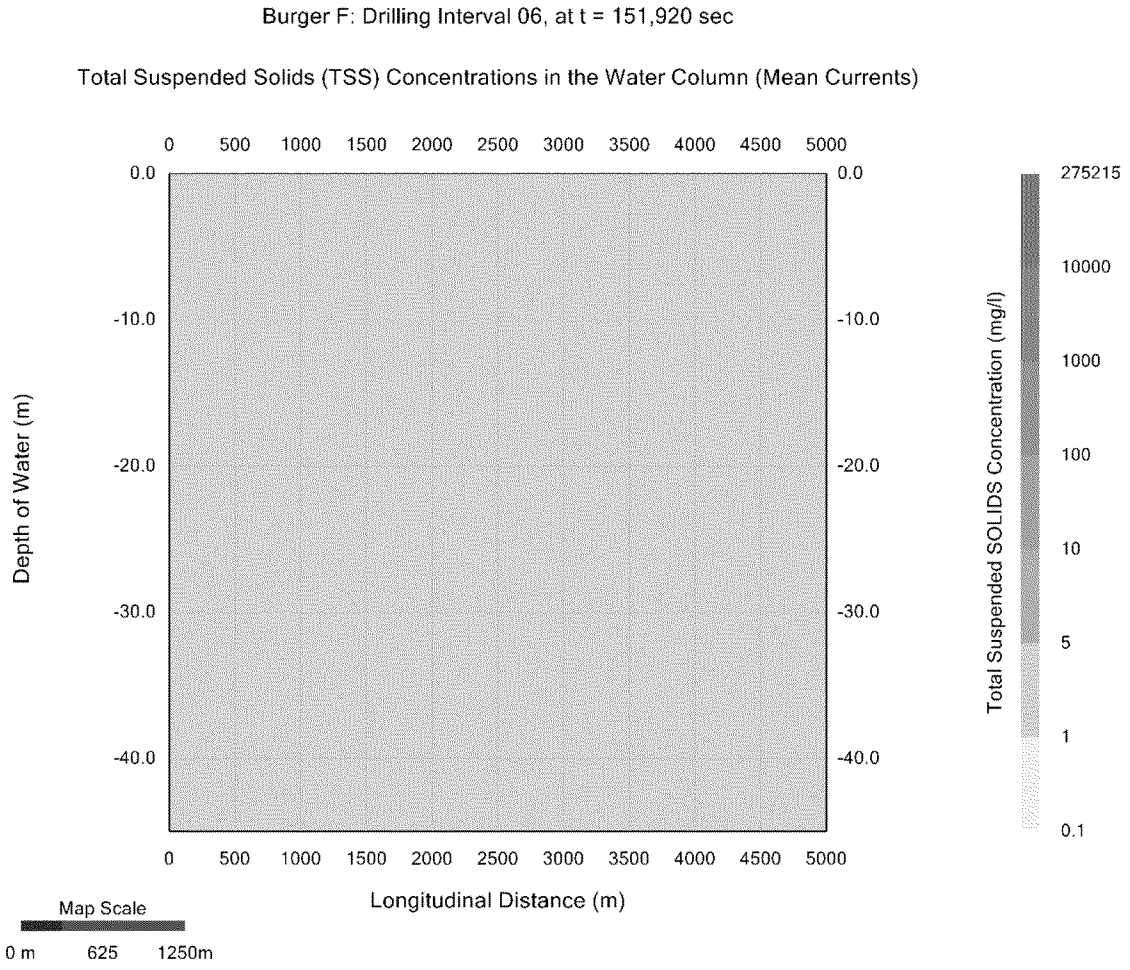


Figure 5-28f: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 42.2 h (or 5 h after the cessation of release)

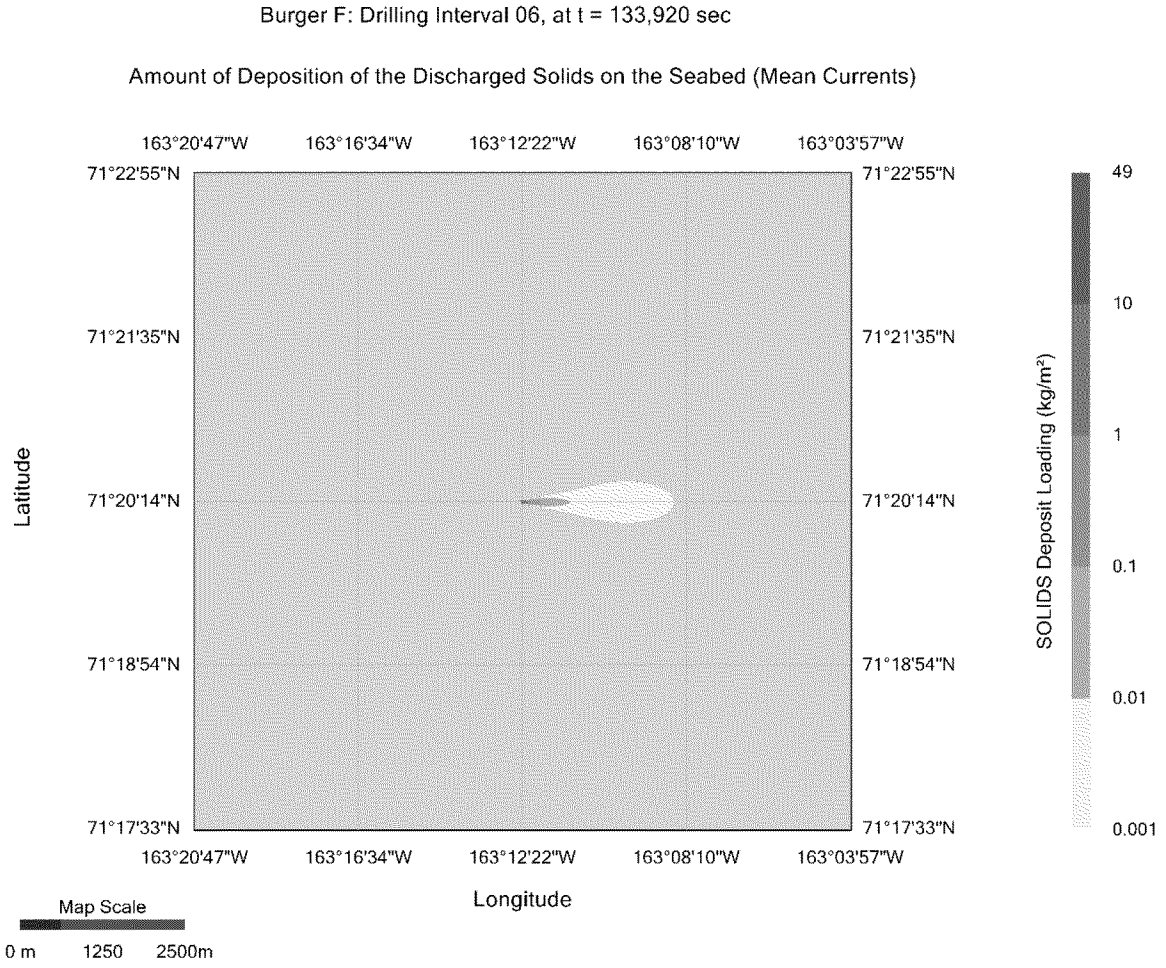


AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent and the amount of solids loading on the sea floor at time, t = **133,920** sec (or **37.2** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figure 5-29**. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as shown in Figure **5-29**. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The maximum loading **48** kg/m^2 occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **10** kg/m^2 and **1** kg/m^2 at distances approximately **50** m and **135** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 approximately between **135** and **325** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **0.1** kg/m^2 to **0.01** kg/ m^2 approximately between **325** and **750** m distances from the discharge location. The loading is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **750** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.245**, **0.564**, **1.297**, and **7.400** ha, respectively.

Figure 5-29: Amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 06



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of solids thickness of **1** cm or larger deposited on the sea floor at time, t = **133,920** sec (or **37.2** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figures 5-30a** and **5-30b**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular colorband. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. The solids deposited on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger as shown by a small dot, occurs on a very small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **5-30**a. The same result is presented in Figure **5-30**b but shows only **240** m x **240** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation of **1** cm or larger on the seabed. The maximum deposit thickness of **3.1** cm occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **45** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **40** m x **40** m rectangle area or **0.187** ha as presented in Figure **5-30**b.

Figure 5-30a: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 06

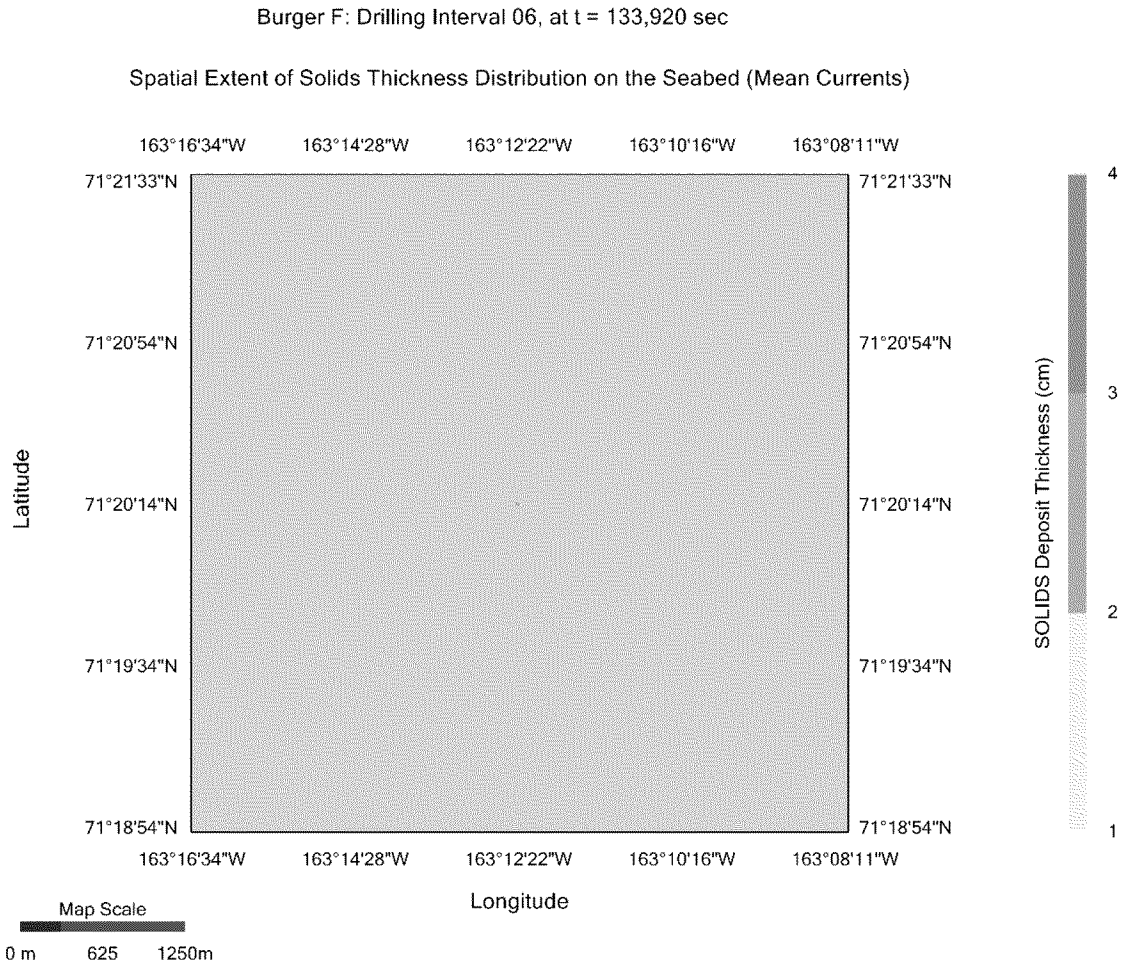
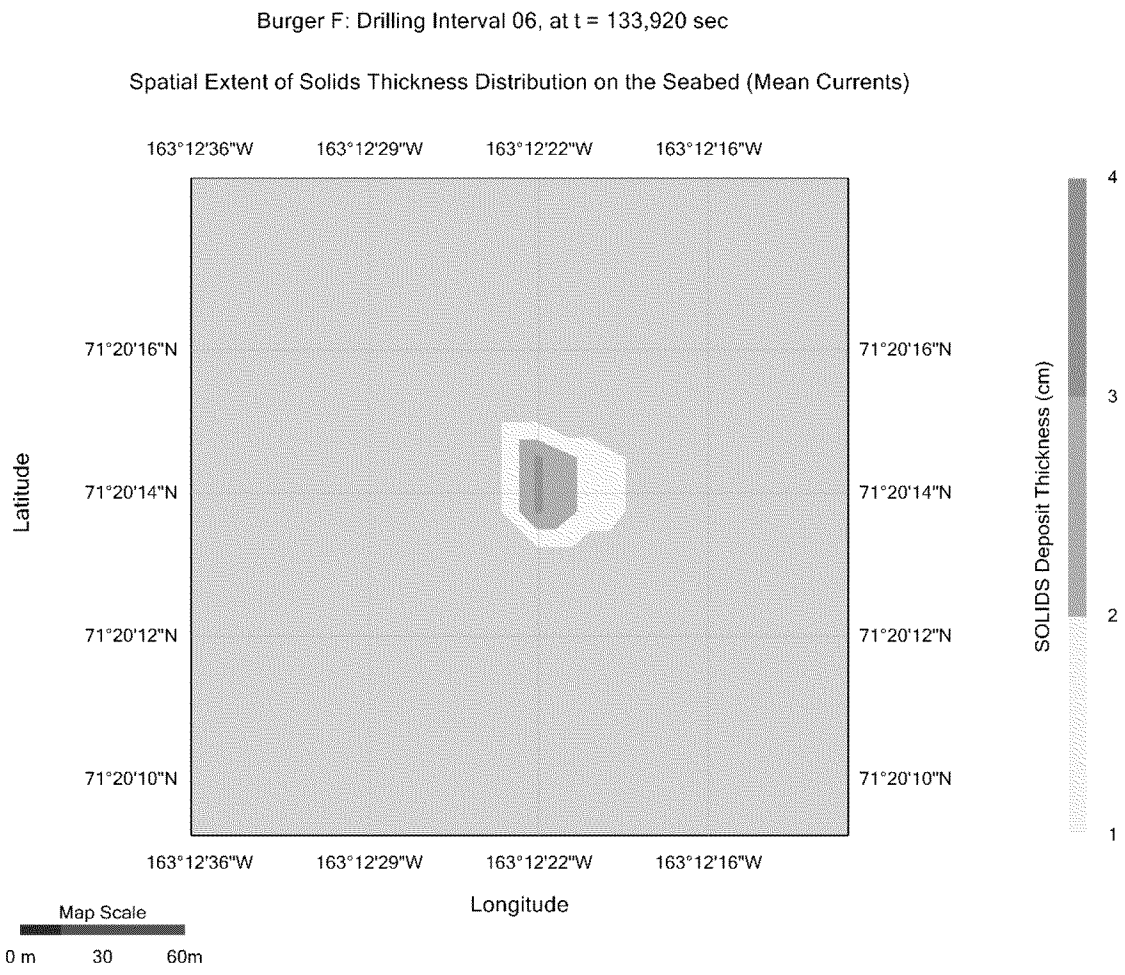


Figure 5-30b: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Drilling Interval 06 (Zoom In View)



5.7 Model Results for Sea Surface Discharge Scenario – Rigs Surface Pits

Water Based Muds Discharge from Rigs Surface Pits at the end of the Drilling Operation

Trajectory and Shape of the Discharge Plume

The trajectory of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 5-31**. The depth of water is **45.0** m and the discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m below the sea surface. The heavier plume travels approximately **32.0** m from the discharge location before collapsing into the ambient sea water due to the higher density of the discharge plume. The shape and width of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 5-32**. The width of the plume is approximately **78.0** m at a distance **32.0** m from the discharge location. The solid lines present the outer boundaries and dotted line presents the center line of the discharge plume in Figures **5-31** and **5-32**. The OOC model exhibits numerical oscillations or instability, which leads to the formation of a triangular loop in the upper boundary of the plume. But it dissipates and the upper boundary smoothed out after the numerical solution stabilized.

Figure 5-31: Trajectory of the discharge plume at mean currents, Rig's Surface Pits

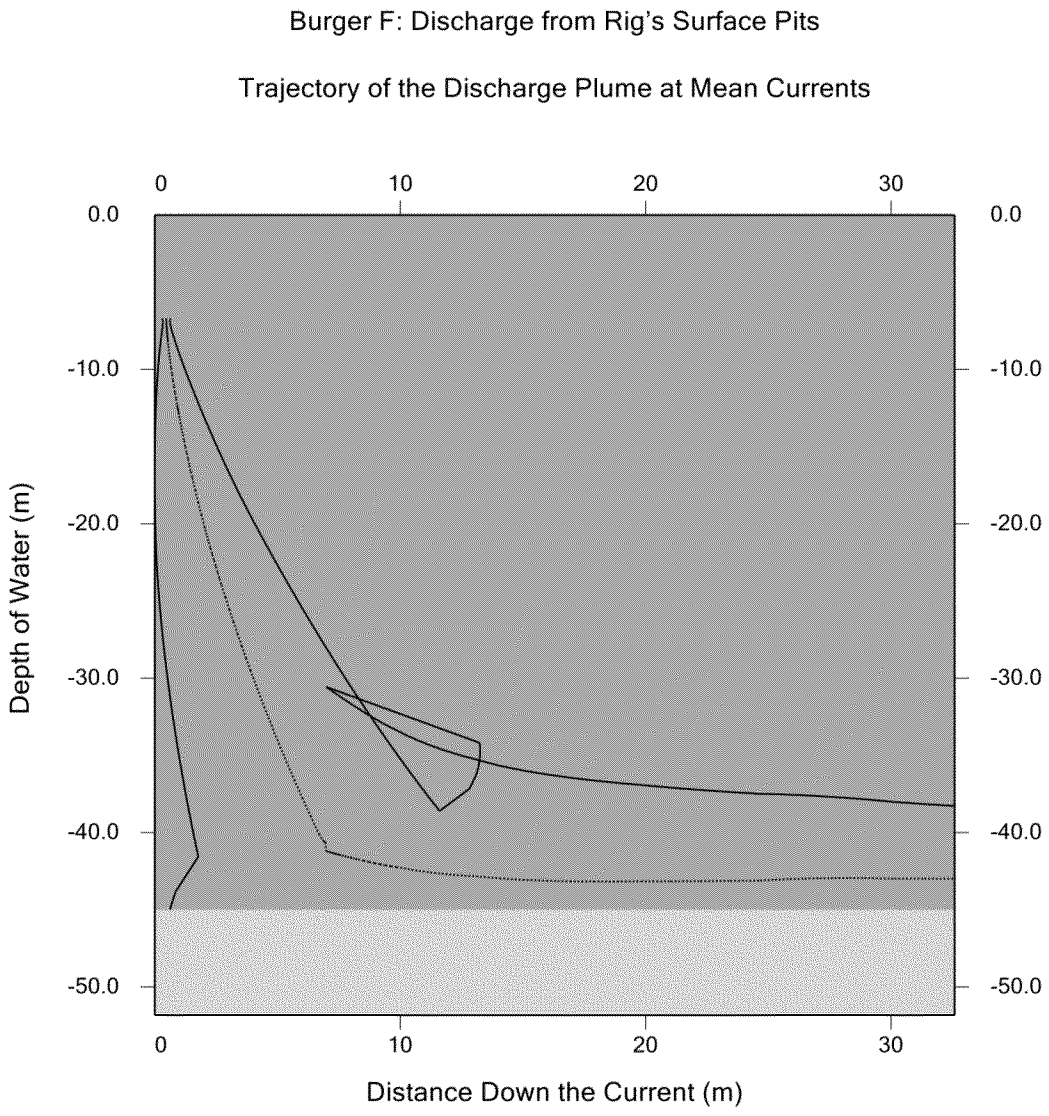
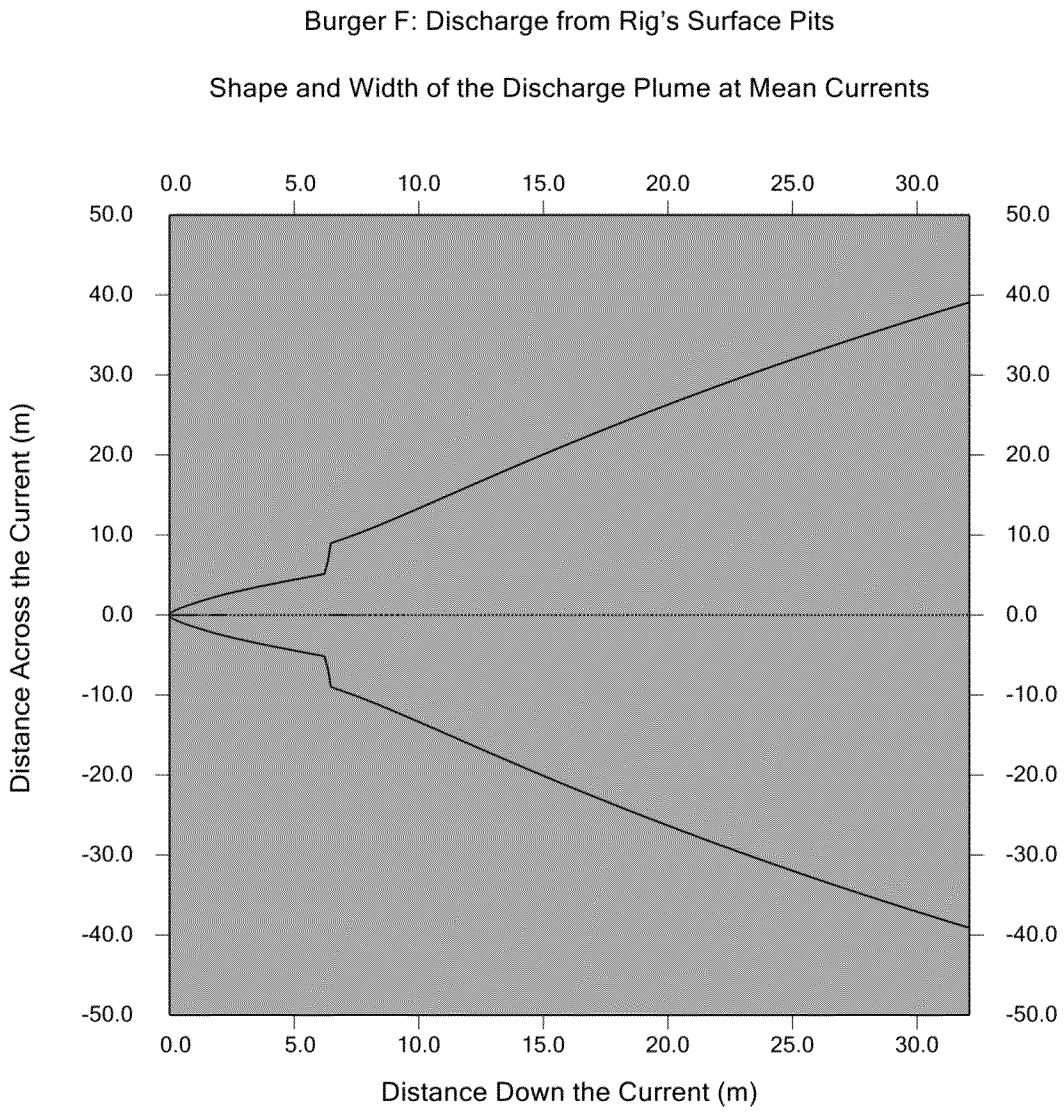


Figure 5-32: Shape and width of the discharge plume at mean currents, Rig's Surface Pits

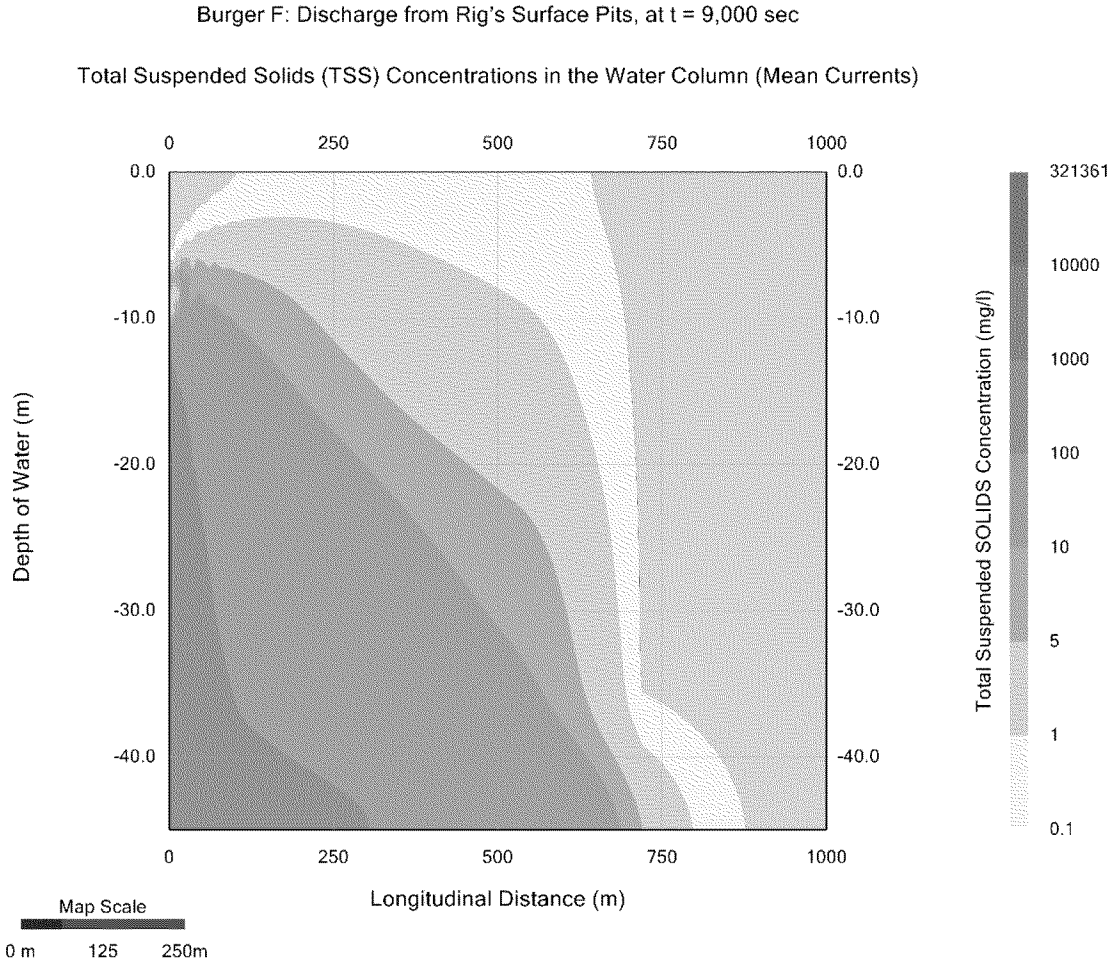


TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE WATER COLUMN

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentration in the water column at time, t = **9,000** sec (or **2.5** hours) which is the discharge duration for the water based muds from the rig's surface pits is presented in **Figure 5-33a**. The depth of water is **45.0** m at the discharge location. The discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m from a **14.25** inches internal diameter discharge pipe. Figure **5-33**a presents the maximum TSS concentrations attained during the discharge. The color filled contours present the variations of the TSS concentrations both with respect to the depth from the sea surface and the distance from the source by different color bands. The maximum TSS concentration **321,361** mg/l occurs at the discharge location. It decreases rapidly to a value of **100** mg/l at a distance approximately **325** m from the discharge location. It varies from **100** to **10** mg/l between **300** m and **690** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **10** to **5** mg/l between **690** m and **720** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **5** to **1** mg/l between **720** m and **800** m distances from the source. It is less than **1** mg/l beyond **800** m from the discharge location.

The maximum TSS concentrations at **10**-, **30**-, **100**-, **300**-, and **1000**-m from the discharge location are: **532.6, 424.7**, **219.1**, **101.3**, and **0.0** mg/l, respectively.

Figure 5-33a: Total suspended solids concentrations in water column at mean currents, Rig's Surface Pits



FATE AND TRANSPORT OF THE TSS

The discharge of the water based muds ceases at time, t = **9,000** sec (or **2.5** hours). The fate and transport of the discharged solids at times **6**, **12**, **18,** and **24** h after the cessation of the discharge are presented by **Figures 5-33b, 5-33c, 5-33d and 5-33e**. These figures show that the TSS concentrations within the **5.0** km model domain decrease to: **5** mg/l or less at **6** h, **1** mg/l or less at **12** h, **1** mg/l or less at **18** h, and less than **0.1** mg/l at **24** h after the cessation of the discharge. Therefore, it can be described that the ambient TSS concentrations attains pre-existing conditions between **18** and **24** h after the cessation of the discharge based on the assumption that the ambient TSS value is equal to or more than **0.1** mg/l within the model domain.

Figure 5-33b: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 8.5 h (or 6 h after the cessation of release)

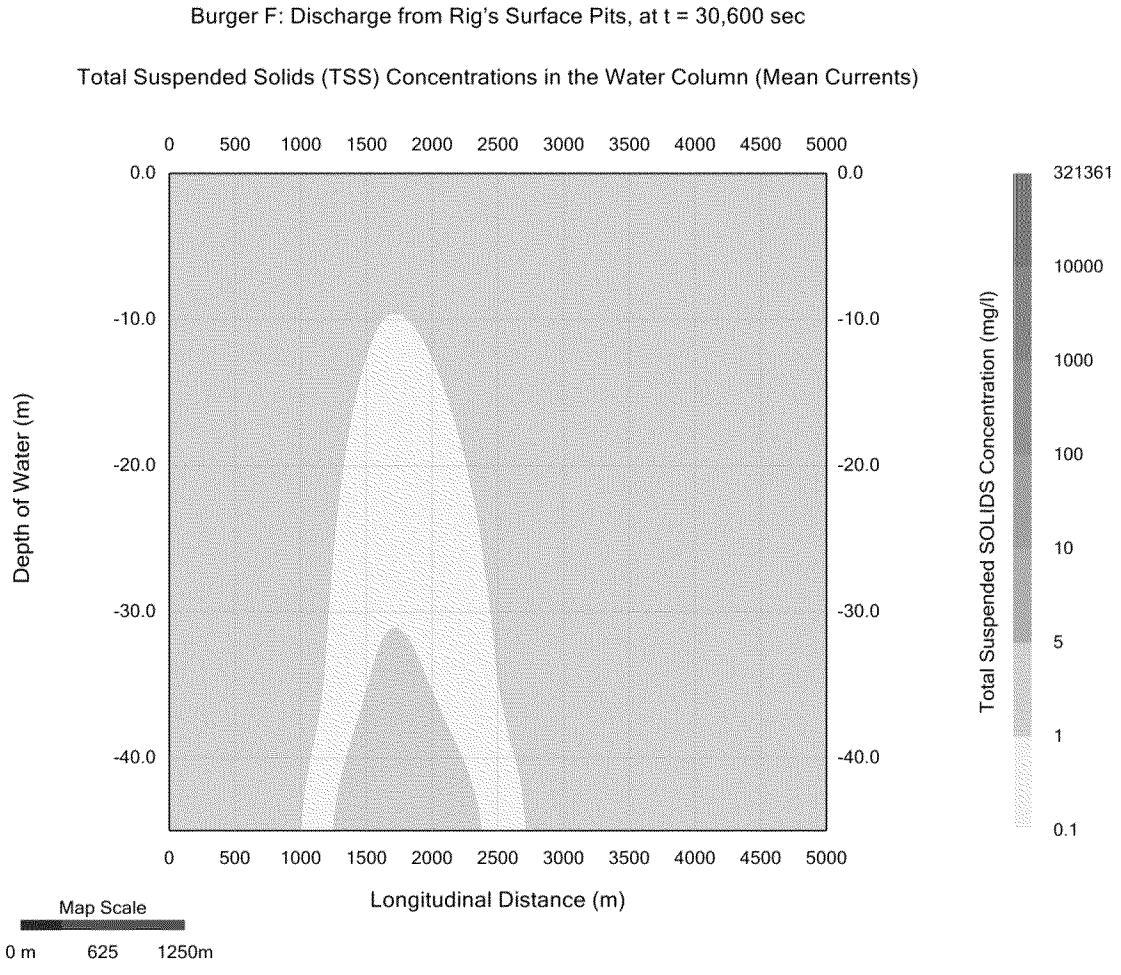


Figure 5-33c: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 14.5 h (or 12 h after the cessation of release)

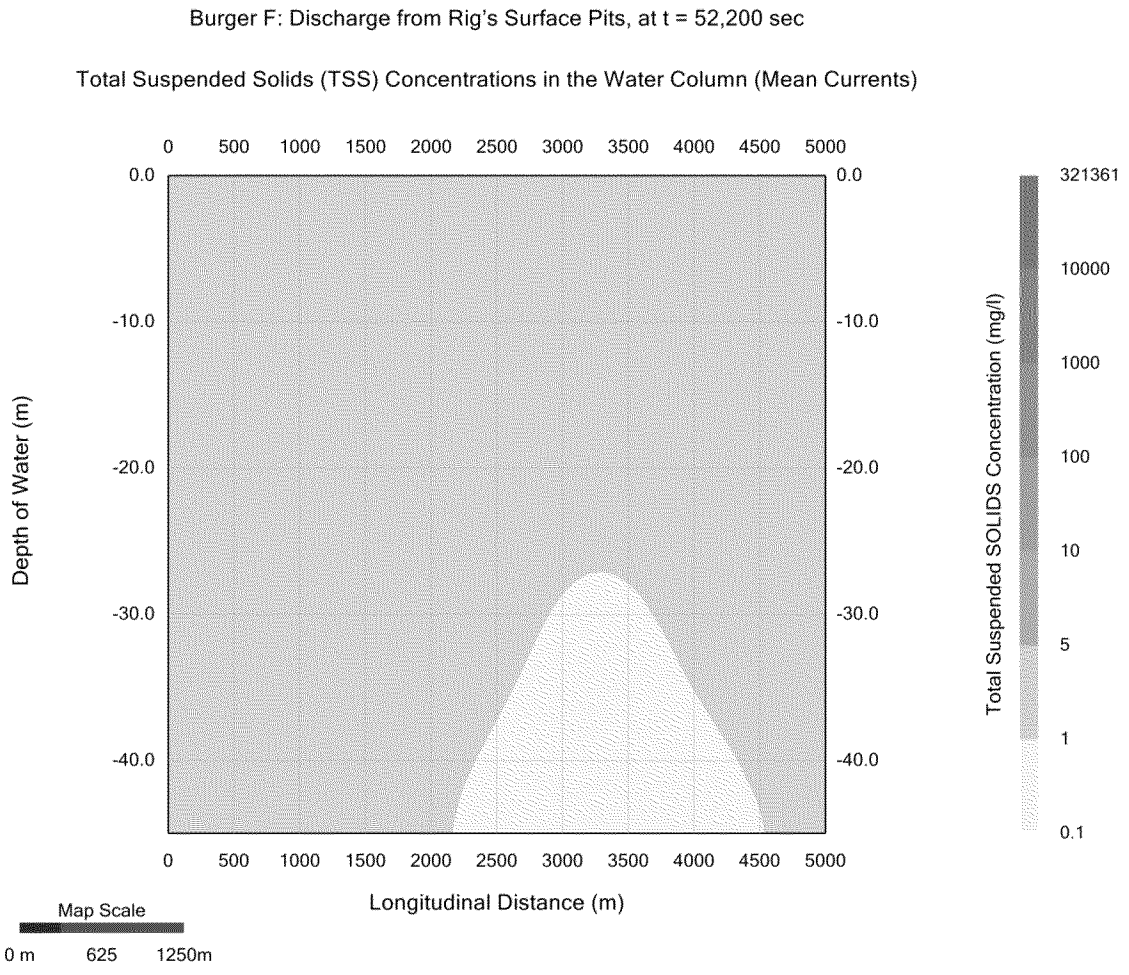


Figure 5-33d: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 20.5 h (or 18 h after the cessation of release)

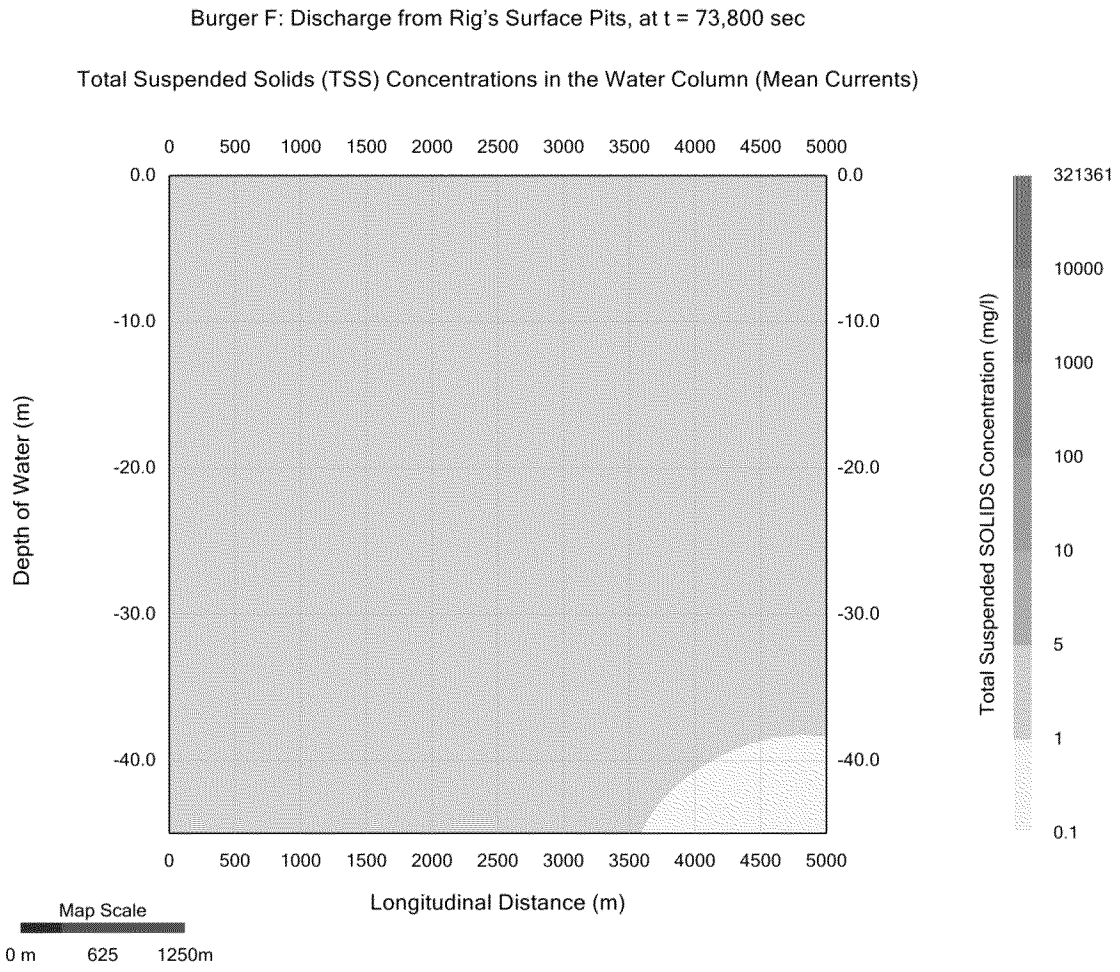
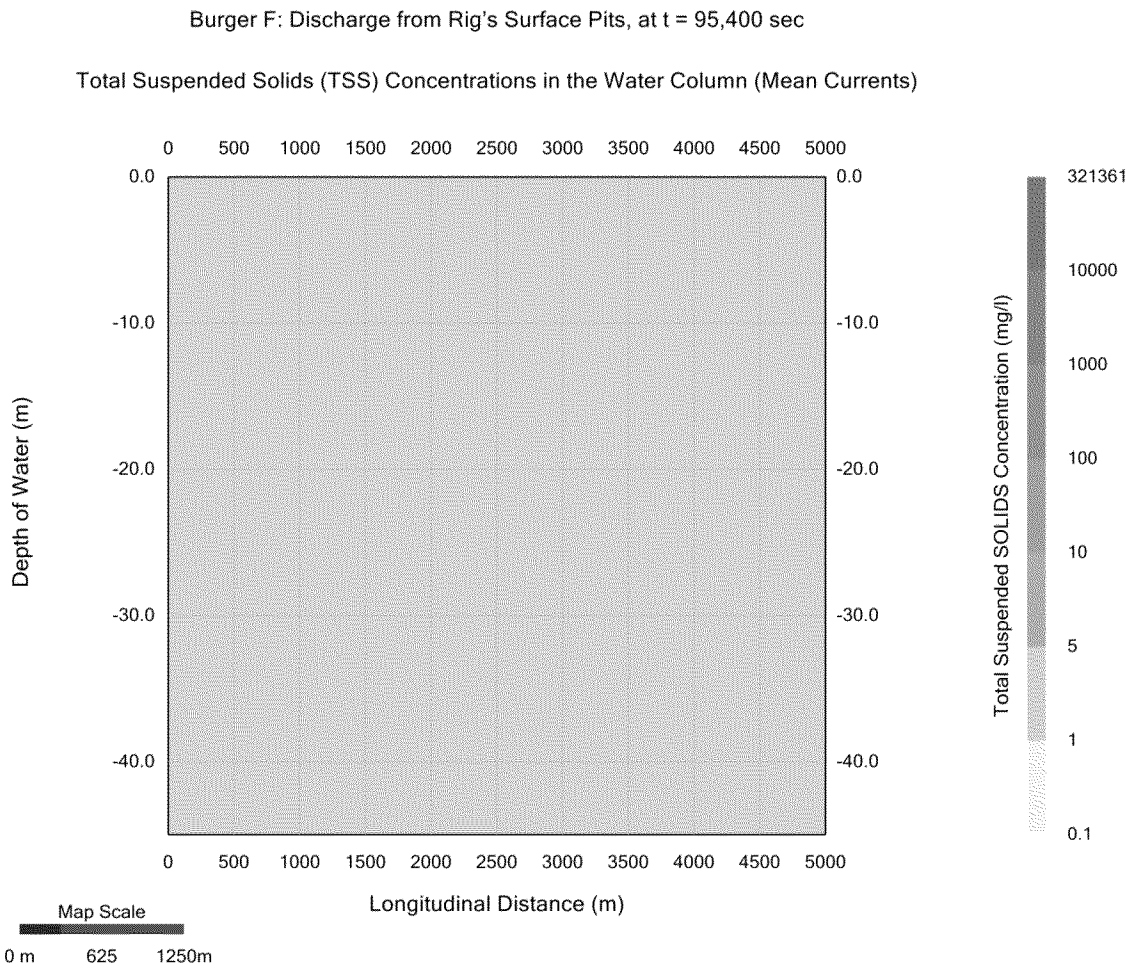


Figure 5-33e: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 26.5 h (or 24 h after the cessation of release)

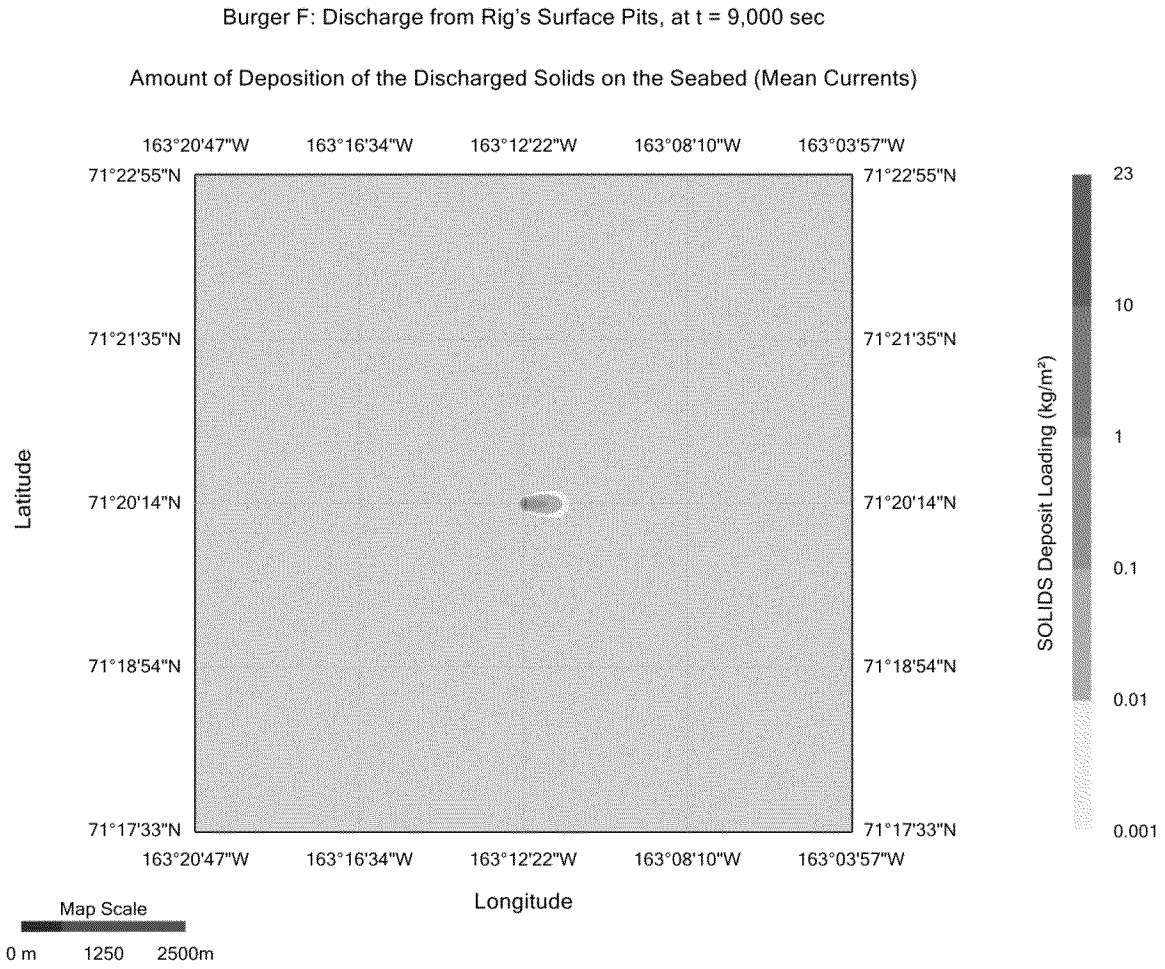


AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent and the amount of solids loading on the sea floor at time, t = **9,000** sec (or **2.5** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based muds from the rig's surface pits on a plan view is presented in **Figure 5-34**. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as shown in Figure **5-34**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of this figure. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The maximum loading **22** kg/m^2 occurs at **30** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **10** kg/m^2 and **1** kg/m^2 at distances approximately **60** m and **90** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 between distances approximately **90** m and **400** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **0.1** kg/m^2 to **0.01** kg/m^2 between distances approximately **400** m and **605** m, respectively from the discharge location. It is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **605** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.196**, **0.885**, **5.097**, and **15.128** ha, respectively.

Figure 5-34: Amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at mean currents, Rig's Surface Pits



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of solids thickness deposited on the sea floorat time, t = **9,000** sec (or **2.5** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based muds from the rig's surface pits on a plan view is presented in **Figures 5-35a** and **5-35b**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular color band. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. The solids deposited on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger as shown by a small dot, occurs on a very small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **5-35**a. The same result is presented in Figure **5-35**b but shows only **240** m x **240** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation of **1** cm or larger on the seabed. The maximum deposit thickness of **1.1** cm occurs at **30** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **37** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **10** m x **20** m rectangle area (or **0.094** ha) as presented in Figure **5-35**b.

Figure 5-35a: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Rig's Surface Pits

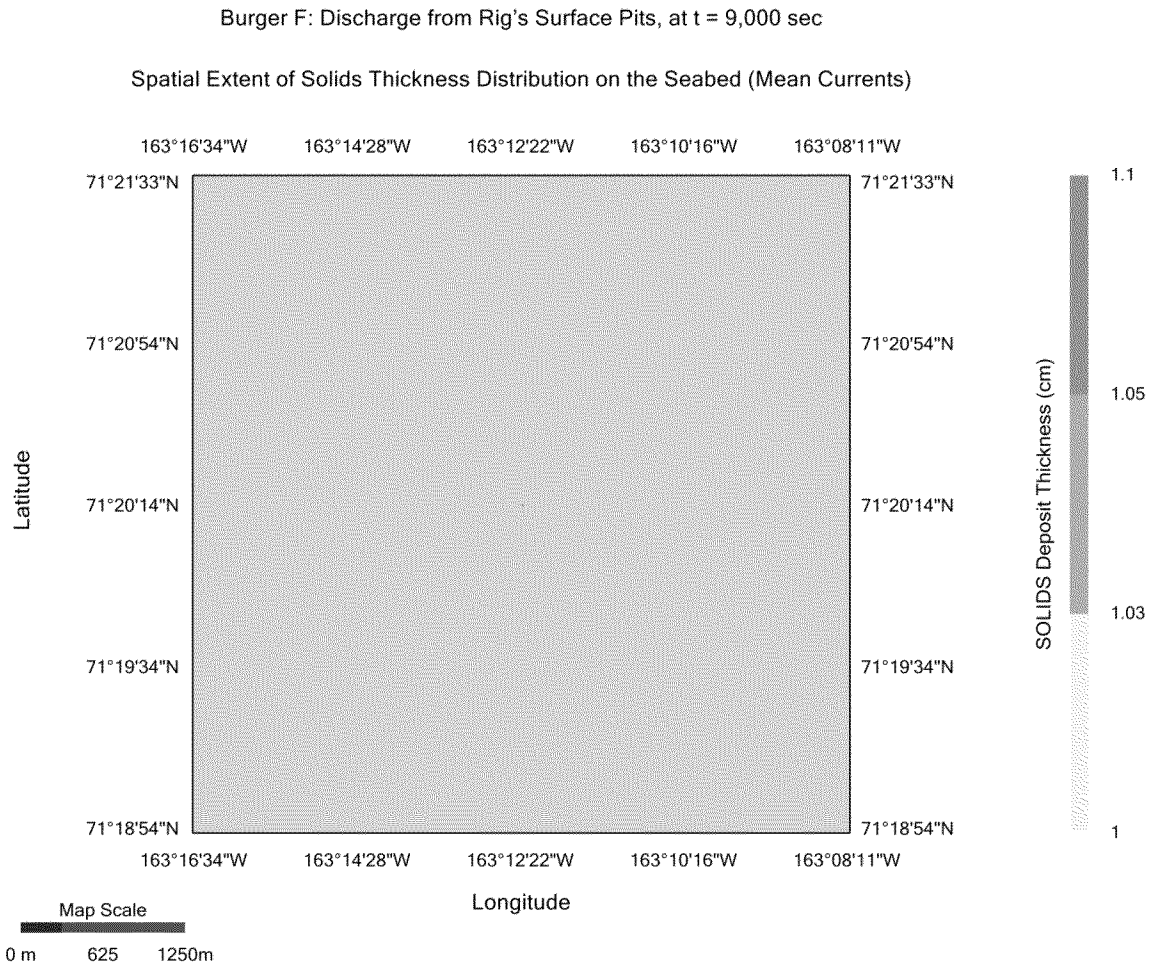
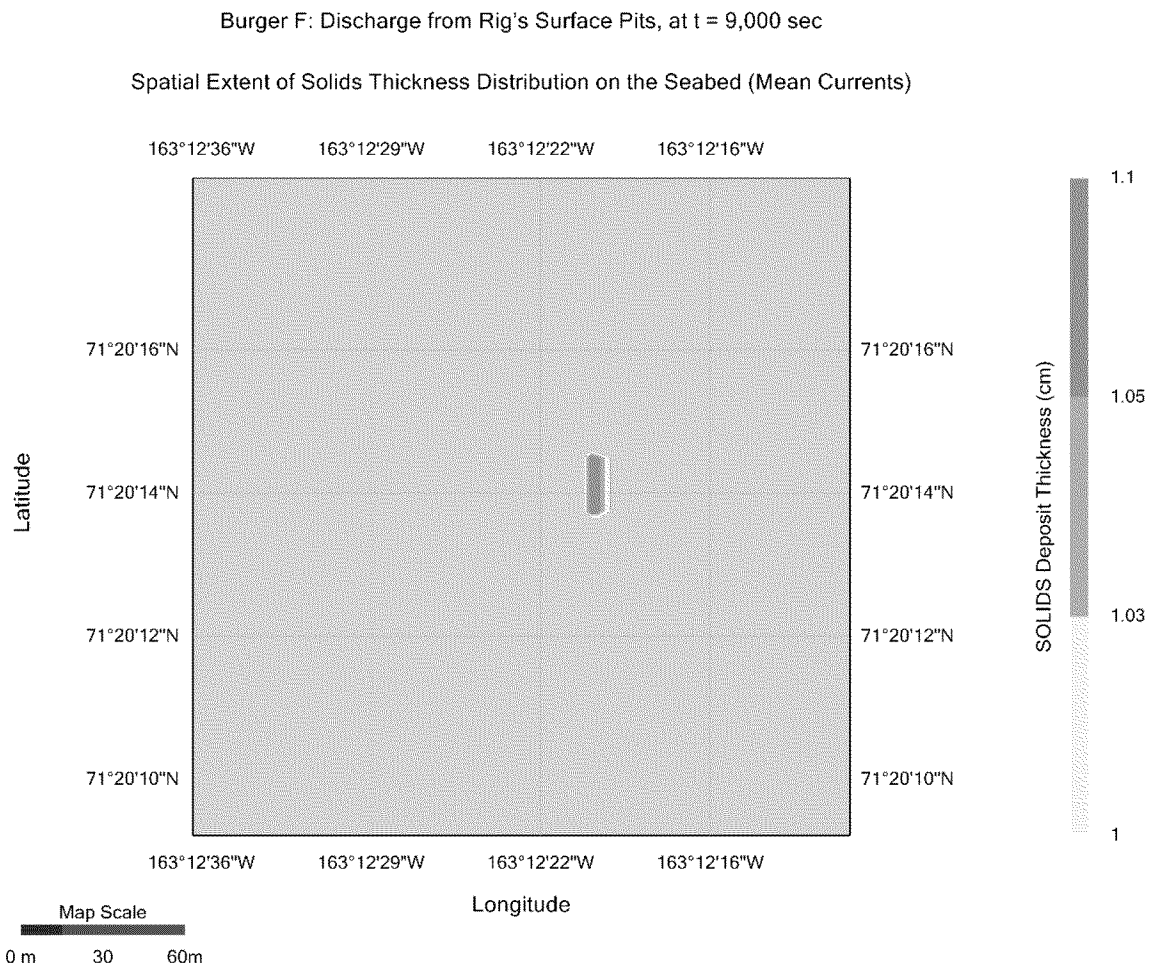


Figure 5-35b: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Rig's Surface Pits (Zoom In View)



5.8 Combined Model Results - Sea Floor and Sea Surface Discharges , Burger F

The spatial extent of the total amount of deposition of the discharged solids on the seabed from the six discrete drilling intervals (**01**, **02**, **03**, **04**, **05**, and **06**) and the rig's surface pits were compiled using the GUIDO **7** (version **7.3**) for the OOC model yielding the total solids deposition loading and thickness distribution on the seabed from the drilling operation at the Burger F well site.

Total Amount of Deposition of the Discharged Solids on the Seabed

The spatial extent of the total amount of solids loading at time t = **197.6** hours as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds on a plan view is presented in **Figures 5-36a** and **5-36b**. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as presented in Figure **5-36**a. Figure **5-36**b presents a zoom in view of the model results, which shows only **2** km x **2** km area of the seabed. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The prevailing current direction is to the east. Therefore, the fate and transport of the discharge plume is towards the east only from the discharge location. The maximum loading of **2,710** kg/m^2 occurs at **10** m to the east and **30** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **100** kg/m^2 at a distance approximately **50** m from the discharge location as shown in Figure **5-36**b. It decreases: **100** kg/m^2 to **10** kg/m^2 between **50** m and **140** m; **10** kg/m^2 to **1** kg/m^2 between **140** m and **400** m; **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 between **400** m and **1,060** m; and **0.1** kg/m^2 to **0.01** kg/m^2 between **1,060 and 2,700 m** distances approximately from the discharge location. The loading is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **2,700** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **1000**-, **100**-, **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.108**, **0.321**, **0.653**, **4.492**, **17.631**, and **135.616** ha, respectively.

Figure 5-36a: Total amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at mean currents, Burger F

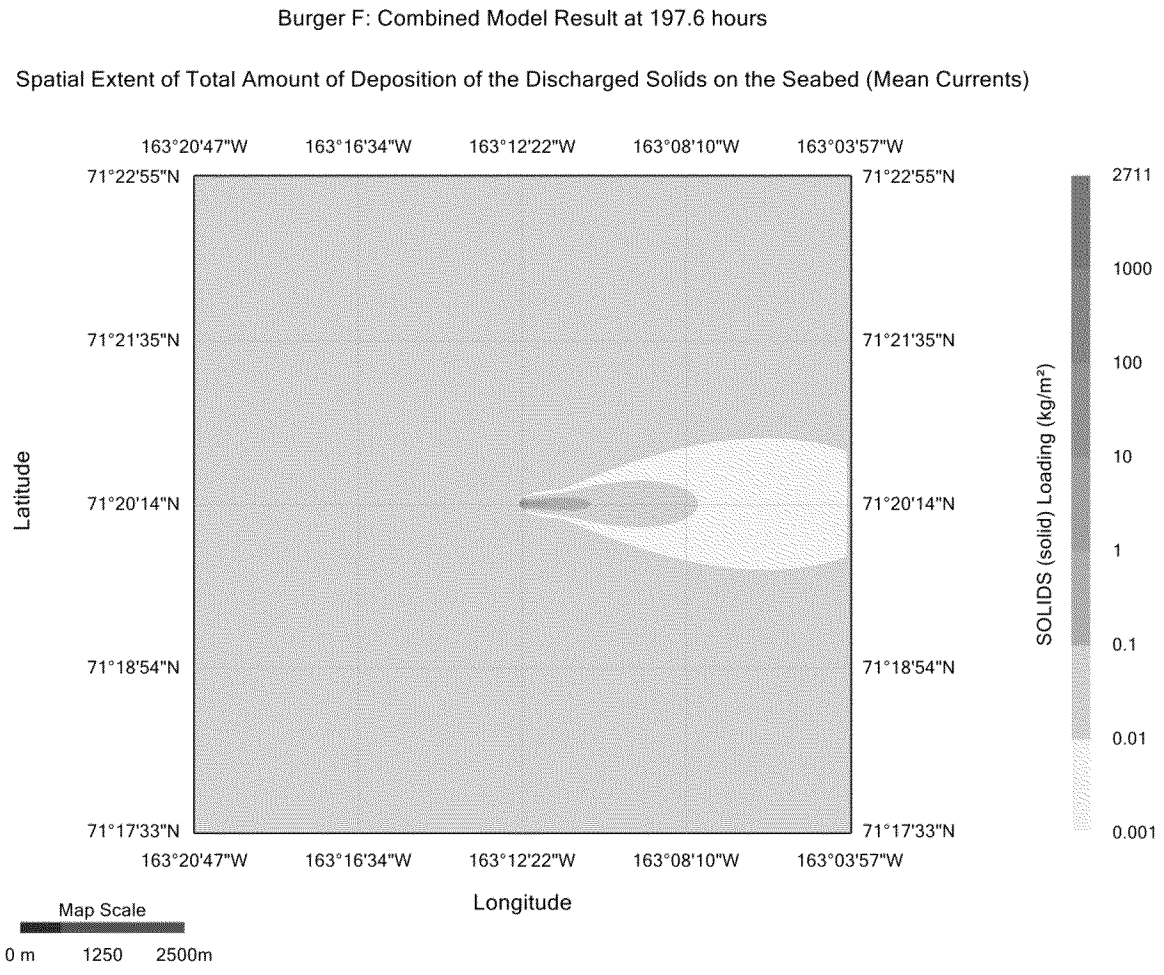
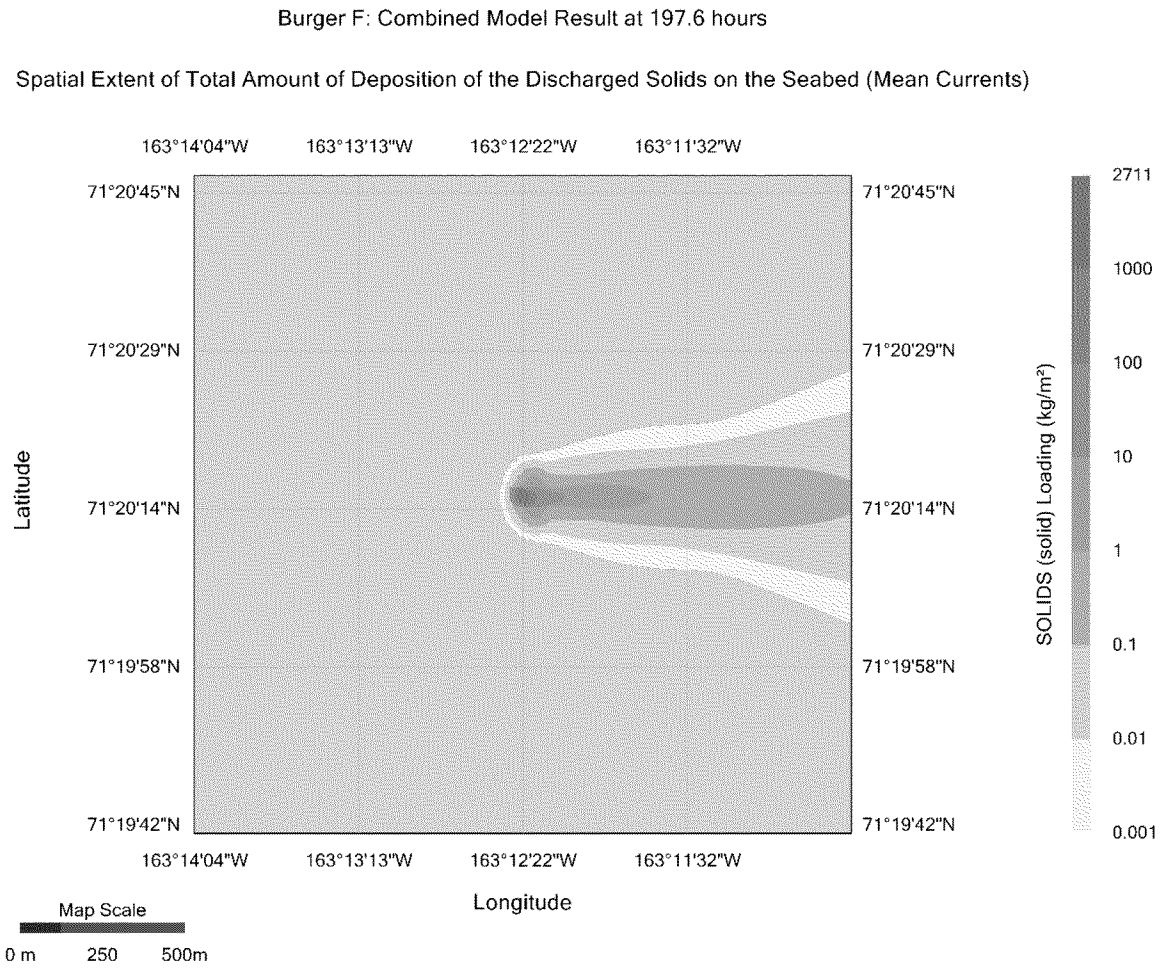


Figure 5-36b: Total amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at mean currents, Burger F (zoom view)



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of the total solids thickness of **1** cm or larger deposited on the sea floor at time t = **197.6** hours as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds on a plan view is presented in **Figures 5-37a** and **5-37b**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular color band. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. The solids deposited on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger occurs on a small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **5-37**a. The same result is presented in Figure **5-37**b but shows only **240** m x **240** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation of **1** cm or larger on the seabed. The prevailing current direction is to the east. Therefore, the fate and transport of the discharge plume is towards the east only from the discharge location. The maximum deposit thickness of **196.3** cm occurs at **10** m to the east and **30** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **100** cm at a distance approximately **20** m from the discharge location as shown in Figure **5-37**b. It decreases: **100** cm to **30** cm between **20** m and **30** m; **30** cm to **10** cm between **30** m and **45** m; **10** cm to **3** cm between **45** m and **75** m; and **3** cm to **1** cm between **75** m and **110** m distances approximately from the discharge location. It is less than **1** cm beyond **110** m approximately to the east from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **130** m x **40** m rectangle area (or **0.519** ha) as presented in Figure **5-37**b.

The sea floor areas affected by deposit thickness larger than **100**-, **10**-, and **1**-cm are: **0.102**, **0.195**, and **0.519** ha, respectively. The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit thickness is presented graphically in **Figure 5-38**.

Figure 5-37a: Spatial extent of total solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Burger F

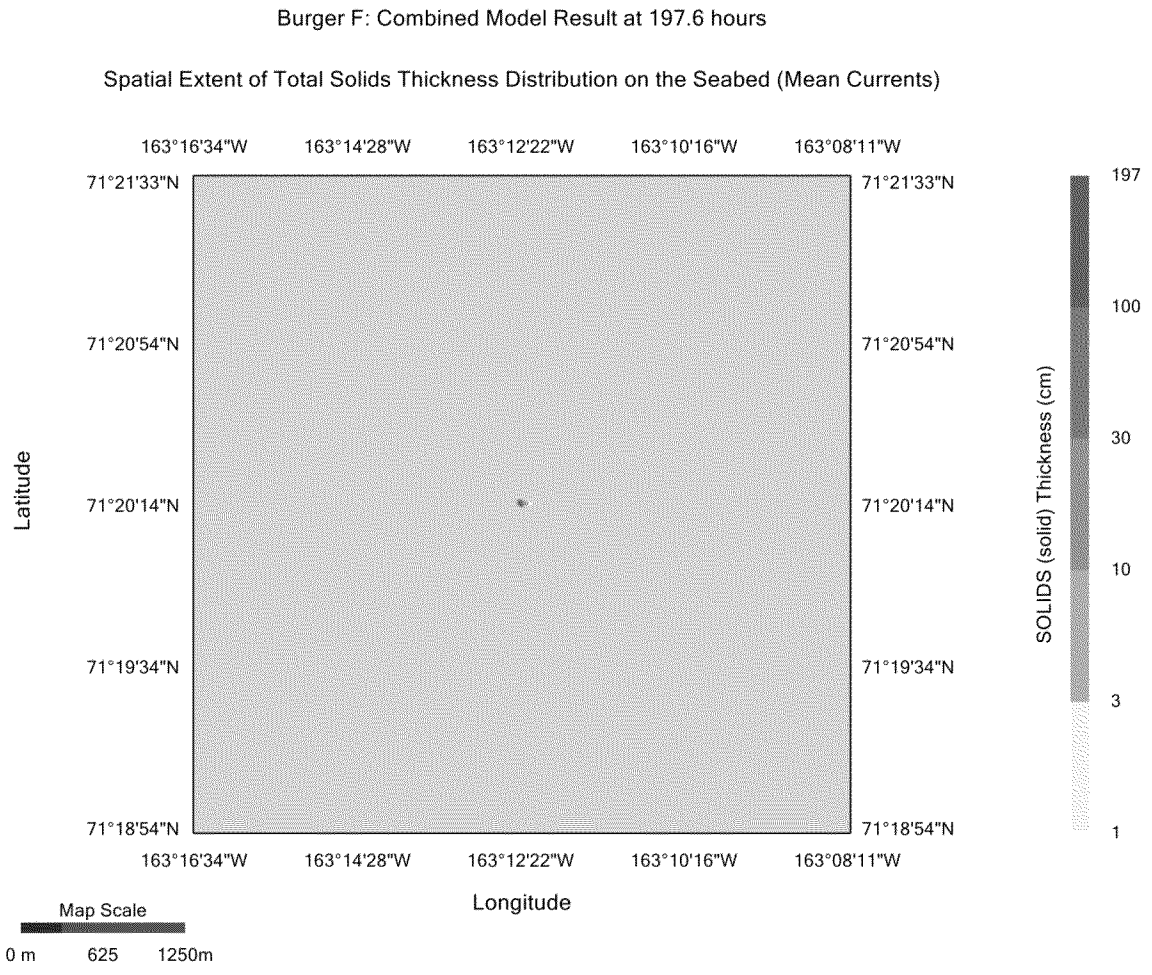


Figure 5-37b: Spatial extent of total solids thickness distribution on seabed at mean currents, Burger F (Zoom In View)

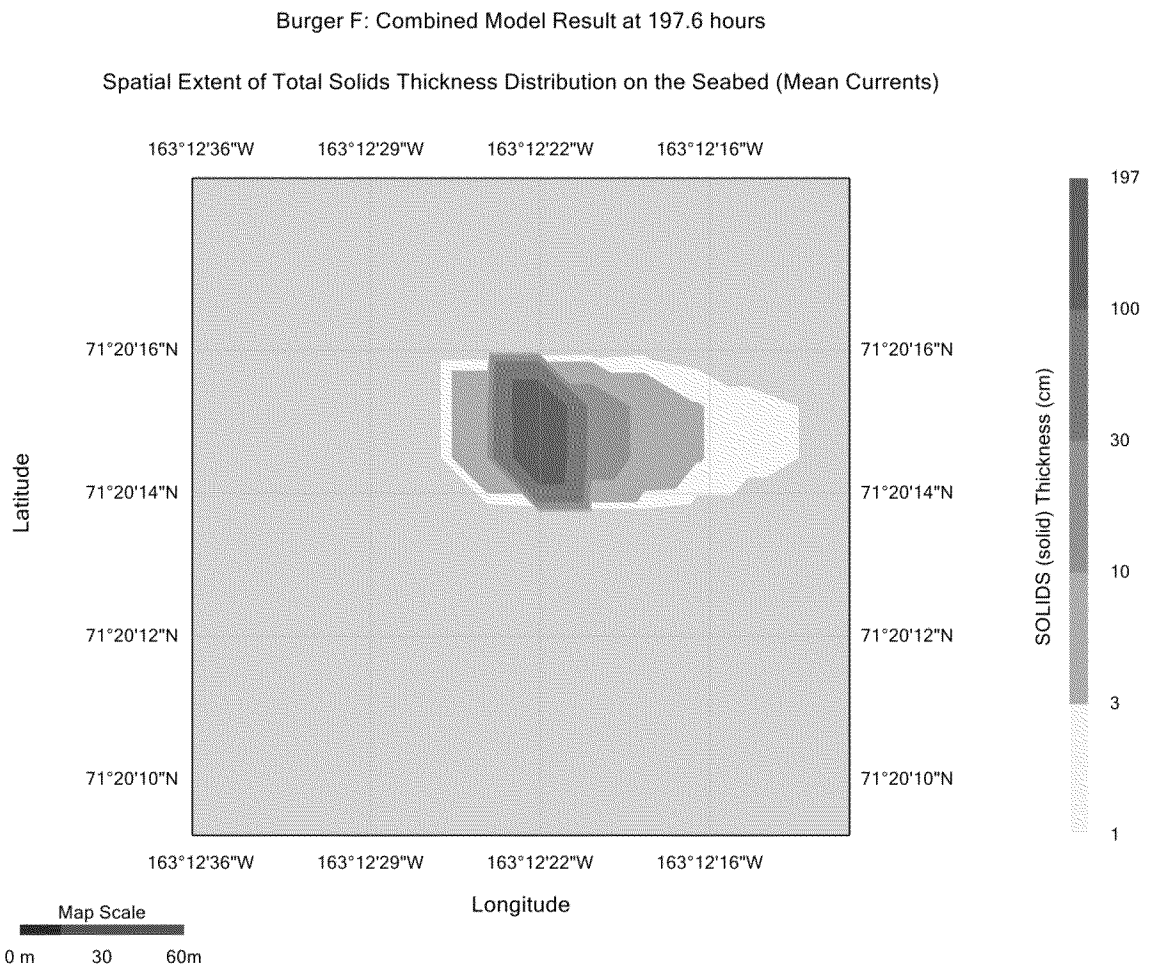
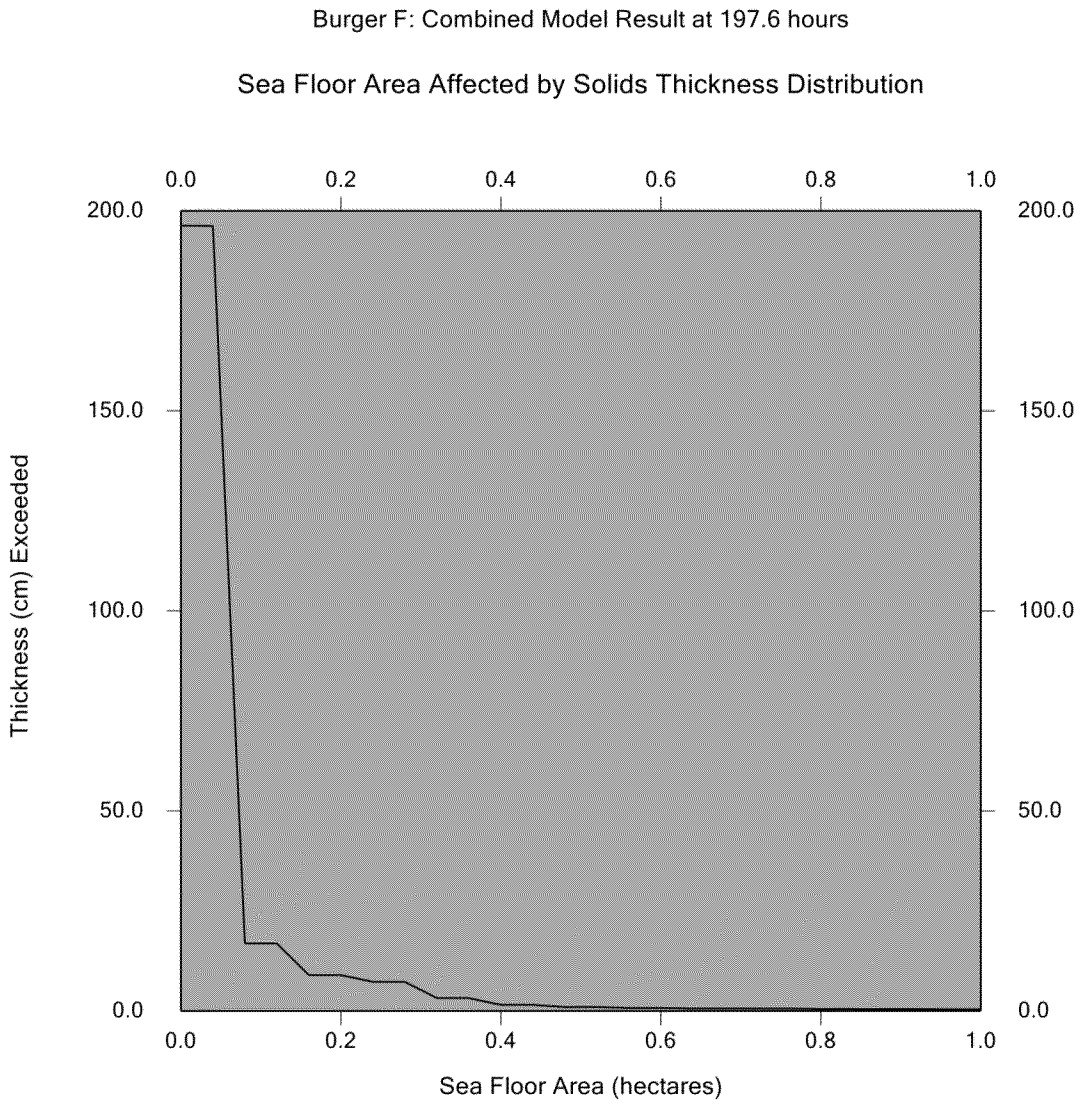


Figure 5-38: Sea floor area affected by solids thickness distribution at mean currents, Burger F



The OOC model predictions for the solids deposition on the seabed from the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds discharges from the six discrete drilling intervals and the rig's surface pits at the mean currents speeds were compiled using the GUIDO **7** software yielding the total solids deposition loading and thickness distribution on the seabed from the drilling operation at the Burger F well site and are presented in **Table 5-2**. The sea floor areas affected at the end of the drilling operation at the Burger F well site by the solids deposit thickness larger than **100**-, **10**-, and **1**-cm are: **0.102**, **0.195**, and **0.519** ha, respectively as presented in Table **5-2**.

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column are presented in **Table 5-3**. The TSS concentrations during the drilling operations are: **6.4** to **219.1** mg/l at **100** m; **1.4** to **101.3** mg/l at **300** m; and **0.0** to **3.6** mg/l at **1000** m distances from the source.

Table 5-2: Total Solids Deposition on the Seabed at Mean Currents

The OOC Model Predictions at Mean Currents										
Well ID	Discharge Scenario	Drilling Intervals	Durations of Discharge	Depth of Water	Depth of Discharge	Effluent Discharge Rate	Pre-diluted Effluent Discharge Rate	Solids Deposition on the Seabed			
								Total Area (ha) Covered by Solids Thickness larger than 100-, 10-, and 1-cm			Maximum Deposit Thickness
			Hours	m	m	bbls/hour	bbls/hour	100 cm	10 cm	1 cm	cm
Burger F	Sea Floor	1	66.00	45.00	43.17	68.83	14,000.00	0.089	0.119	0.274	128.14
		2	5.20	45.00	43.17	116.30	14,000.00	-	-	0.117	8.38
		3	34.40	45.00	43.17	86.70	14,000.00	-	0.111	0.192	38.88
	Sea Surface	4	23.30	45.00	6.71	148.38	159.21	-	0.098	0.322	13.54
		5	29.00	45.00	6.71	69.10	79.93	-	-	0.271	8.68
		6	37.20	45.00	6.71	21.40	32.23	-	-	0.187	3.15
		Rig's Surface Pits	2.50	45.00	6.71	970.80	970.80	-	-	0.094	1.09
	At the end of the Drilling Operation							0.102	0.195	0.519	196.31

Table 5-3: Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Concentrations in the Water Column at Mean Currents

The OOC Model Predictions at Mean Currents												
Well ID	Discharge Scenario	Drilling Intervals	Durations of Discharge	Depth of Water	Depth of Discharge	Effluent Discharge Rate	Pre-diluted Effluent Discharge Rate	Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Concentrations (mg/l) in Water Column at 10-, 30-, 100-, 300-, and 1000-m from the Source				
			Hours	m	m	bbls/hour	bbls/hour	10 m	30 m	100 m	300 m	1000 m
Burger F	Sea Floor	1	66.00	45.00	43.17	68.83	14,000.00	1,138.3	413.4	103.1	22.1	3.6
		2	5.20	45.00	43.17	116.30	14,000.00	913.0	317.5	87.0	18.4	2.9
		3	34.40	45.00	43.17	86.70	14,000.00	589.9	223.9	61.2	12.8	2.1
	Sea Surface	4	23.30	45.00	6.71	148.38	159.21	736.0	196.5	24.2	5.3	0.9
		5	29.00	45.00	6.71	69.10	79.93	493.4	118.2	14.3	3.2	0.5
		6	37.20	45.00	6.71	21.40	32.23	177.4	37.6	6.4	1.4	0.2
		Rig's Surface Pits	2.50	45.00	6.71	970.80	970.80	532.6	424.7	219.1	101.3	0.0

SECTION 6.0 DISPERSION AND DEPOSITION MODELING – MAXIMUM CURRENTS

The dispersion and deposition numeric simulations of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids discharges from the drilling operation at the Burger F well site for both the sea floor **(D013)** and sea surface **(D001)** discharge scenarios at the maximum currents were performed using the OOC model. The numeric simulations were carried out for the six drillings intervals for the actual drilling durations: **66.0**, **5.2**, **34.4**, **23.3**, **29.0**, and **37.2** hours as presented in **Table 6-1**. Moreover, numeric simulation was also carried out for the surface discharge of the water based muds at the end of the drilling of the well from the rig's surface pits at a rate of **970.80** bbls/hour for **2.5** hours. A **360**-second model time step (Δt) was used for the computer simulations of all discharges listed in Table **6-1**. The solids deposition on the seabed from the below listed discharges from the six discrete drilling intervals and the rig's surface pits were compiled using the GUIDO **7** for the OOC model yielding the total solids deposition loading and thickness distribution on the seabed from the drilling operation at the Burger F well site.

Table 6-1: Total Simulation Time, Model Time Step, and Discharge Rates for Burger F

Well ID	Discharge Scenario	Drilling Intervals	Durations of Drilling (Discharge)		The OOC Numeric Model Simulation			Depth of Water	Depth of Discharge	Effluent (Cuttings + Drilling Fluids) Mass Discharge Rate	Pre-diluted Effluent Discharge Rate
					Total Simulation Time	Model Time Step (Δt)	Count of Total Model Steps				
			Hours	Seconds	Seconds	Seconds		m	m	bbls/hour	bbls/hour
Burger F	Sea Floor	1	66.00	237,600	237,600	360	660	45.00	43.17	68.83	14,000
		2	5.20	18,720	18,720	360	52	45.00	43.17	116.30	14,000
		3	34.40	123,840	123,840	360	344	45.00	43.17	86.70	14,000
	Sea Surface	4	23.30	83,880	83,880	360	233	45.00	6.71	148.38	159.21
		5	29.00	104,400	104,400	360	290	45.00	6.71	69.10	79.93
		6	37.20	133,920	133,920	360	372	45.00	6.71	21.40	32.23
		Rig's Surface Pits	2.50	9,000	9,000	360	25	45.00	6.71	970.80	970.80

The OOC model predictions for the dispersion and deposition of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds in the near-field and far-field receiving water are presented in this technical report by the following effluent characteristics:

- Trajectory and shape of the discharge plume
- Total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in milligrams per liter (mg/l) in the water column
- Amount of deposition of the discharged solids in kilograms per square meter (kg/m^2) on the seabed
- Spatial extent of deposition (i.e., solids thickness distribution) in centimeter (cm) of the discharged solids on the seabed

6.1 Model Results for Sea Floor Discharge Scenario – Drilling Interval 01

Trajectory and Shape of the Discharge Plume

The trajectory of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 6-1**. The depth of water is **45.0** m and the discharge occurs at a depth of **43.17** m from a **12.0** inches internal diameter discharge pipe of the sea floor pump at **14,000** bbls/hour. A flexible hose suction pipe of this sea floor pump moves the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids from the drill strings and discharges at **1.83** m (or **6** feet) above the seafloor. The discharge pipe is oriented horizontally aligned with the direction of the current, which is to the east. Therefore, the heavier discharge plume attempts to shoot horizontally as seen in Figure **6-1** and travels to the east to a distance approximately **0.35** m only from the discharge location before collapsing onto the sea floor due to the proximity of the plume near the sea floor. The shape and width of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 6-2**. The width of the plume is approximately **0.35** m at a distance **0.35** m from the discharge location. The solid lines present the outer boundaries and dotted line presents the center line of the discharge plume in Figures **6-1** and **6-2**.

Figure 6-1: Trajectory of the discharge plume at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 01

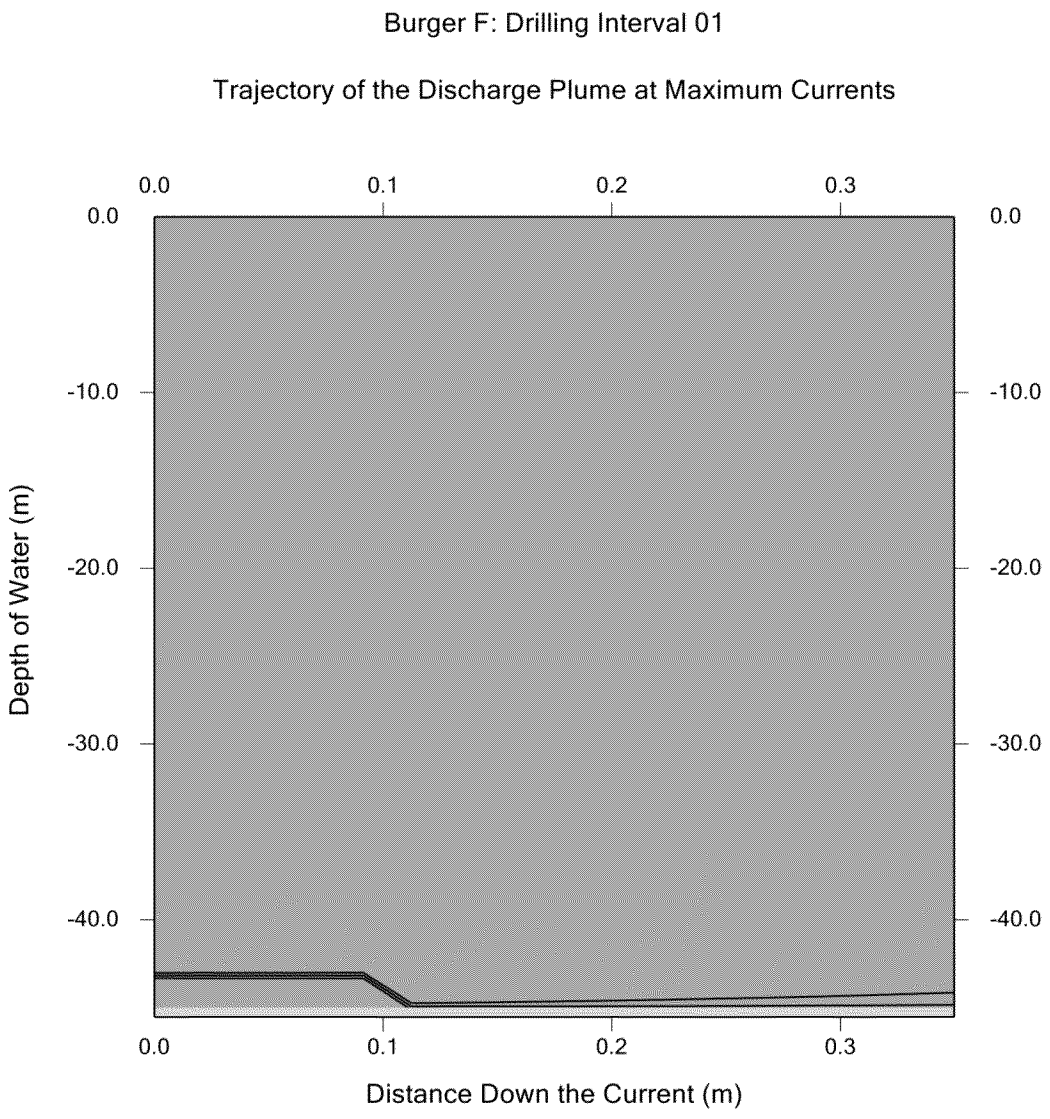
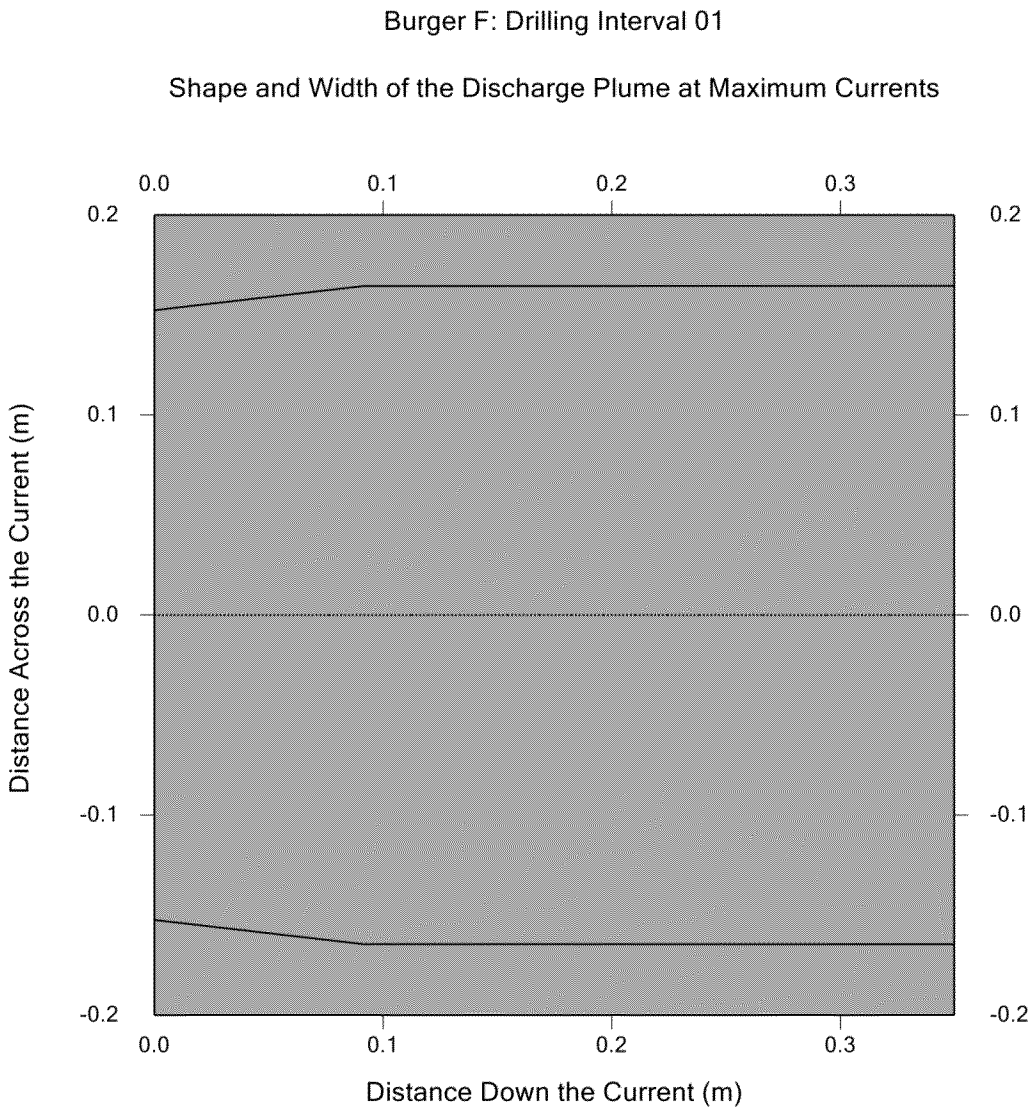


Figure 6-2: Shape and width of the discharge plume at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 01

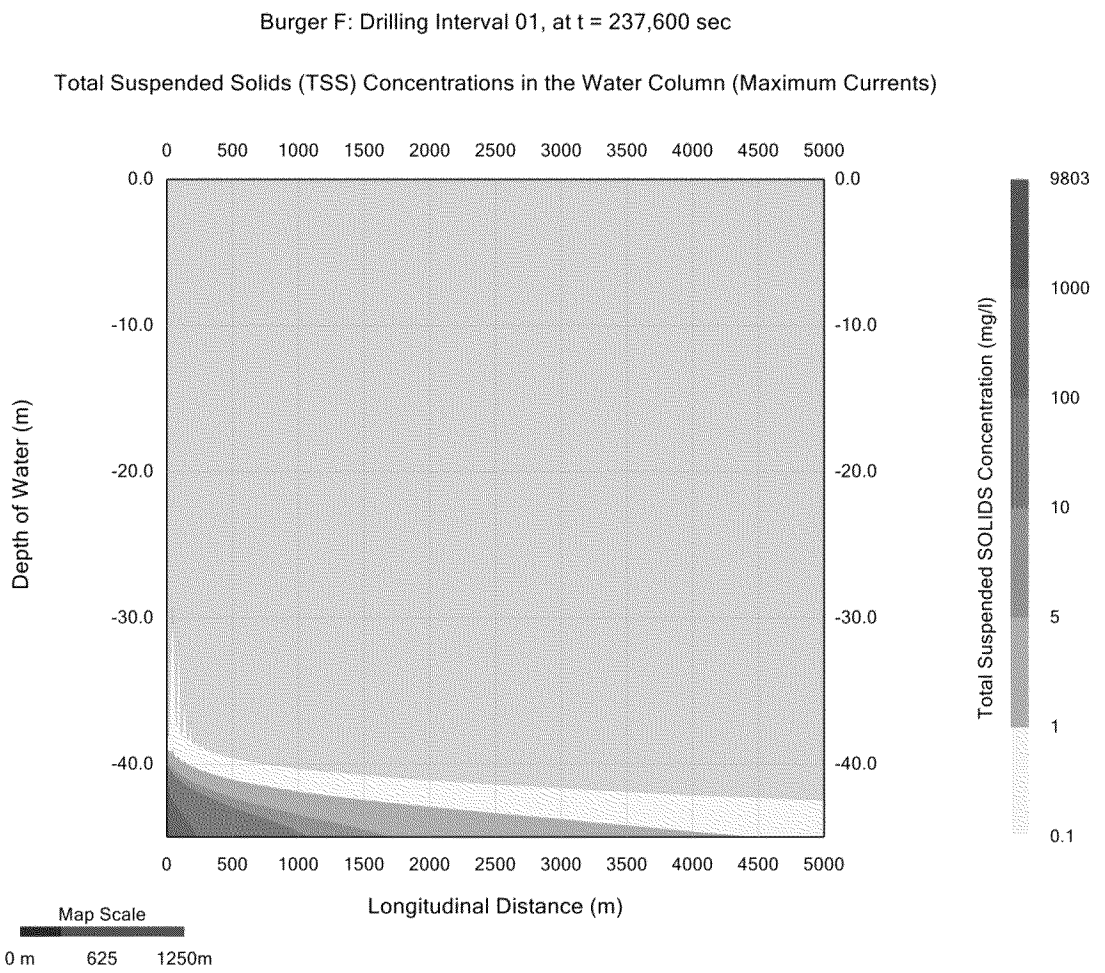


TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE WATER COLUMN

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column at time, t = **237,600** sec (or **66.0** hours) which is the discharge duration for this drilling interval is presented in **Figure 6-3a**. The depth of water is **45.0** m at the discharge location. The discharge occurs at a depth of **43.17** m from a **12.0** inches internal diameter discharge pipe. Figure **6-3**a presents the maximum TSS concentrations attained during the discharge. The color filled contours present the variations of the TSS concentrations both with respect to the depth from the sea surface and the distance from the source by different color bands. The maximum TSS concentration **9,803** mg/l occurs at the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **100** mg/l and **10** mg/l at distances approximately **220** m and **1,050** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **10** to **5** mg/l approximately between **1,050** and **1,620** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **5** to **1** mg/l between **1,620** and **4,250** m distances from the source. It is less than **1**mg/l beyond **4,250** m from the discharge location. The effect of the sea floor pump is visible in this Figure **6-3**. The discharge plume is spreading farther horizontally to the east along the direction of the current than vertically. The TSS concentration is less than **1** mg/l at a depth approximately **35** m or less at or near the discharge location. It is less than **1** mg/l at a depth approximately **40** m at **500** m from the discharge location.

The maximum TSS concentrations at **10**-, **30**-, **100**-, **300**-, and **1000**-m from the discharge location are: **1958.6**, **738.1**, **265.7**, **71.8**, and **11.7** mg/l, respectively.

Figure 6-3a: Total suspended solids concentrations in water column at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 01



FATE AND TRANSPORT OF THE TSS

The discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids ceases at time, t = **237**,**600** sec (or **66.0** hours). The fate and transport of the discharged solids at times **1**, **2**, **3**, **4, 5**, and **6** h after the cessation of the discharge are presented by **Figures 6-3b, 6-3c, 6-3d, 6-3e, 6-3f,** and **6-3g** . These figures show that the TSS concentrations within the **5.0** km model domain decrease to: **100** mg/l or less at **1** h, **5** mg/l or less at **2** h, **5** mg/l or less at **3** h, **5** mg/l or less at **4** h, **1** mg/l or less at **5** h, and less than **0.1** mg/l at **6** h after the cessation of the discharge. Therefore, it can be described that the ambient TSS concentrations attains pre-existing conditions between **5** and **6** h after the cessation of the discharge based on the assumption that the ambient TSS value is equal to or more than**0.1** mg/l within the model domain.

Figure 6-3b: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 67 h (or 1 h after the cessation of release)

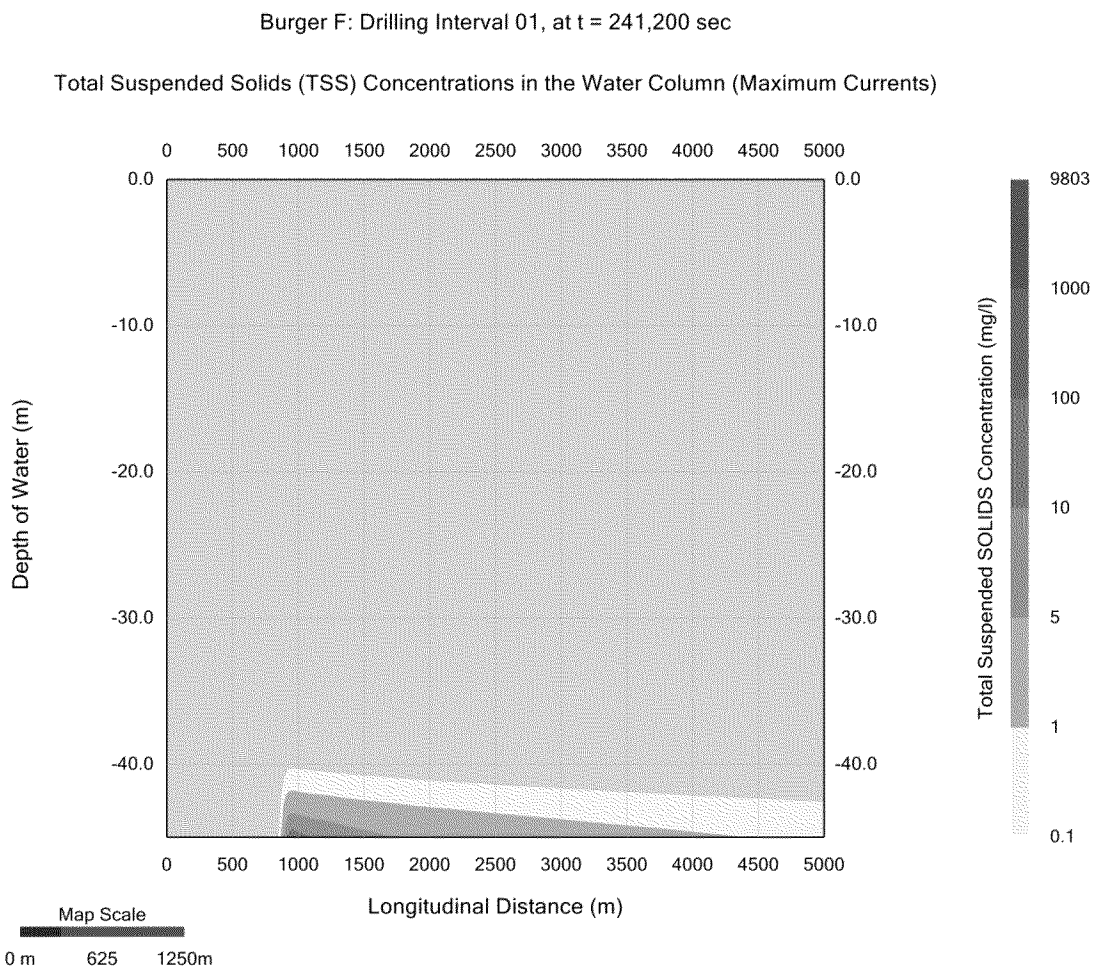


Figure 6-3c: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 68 h (or 2 h after the cessation of release)

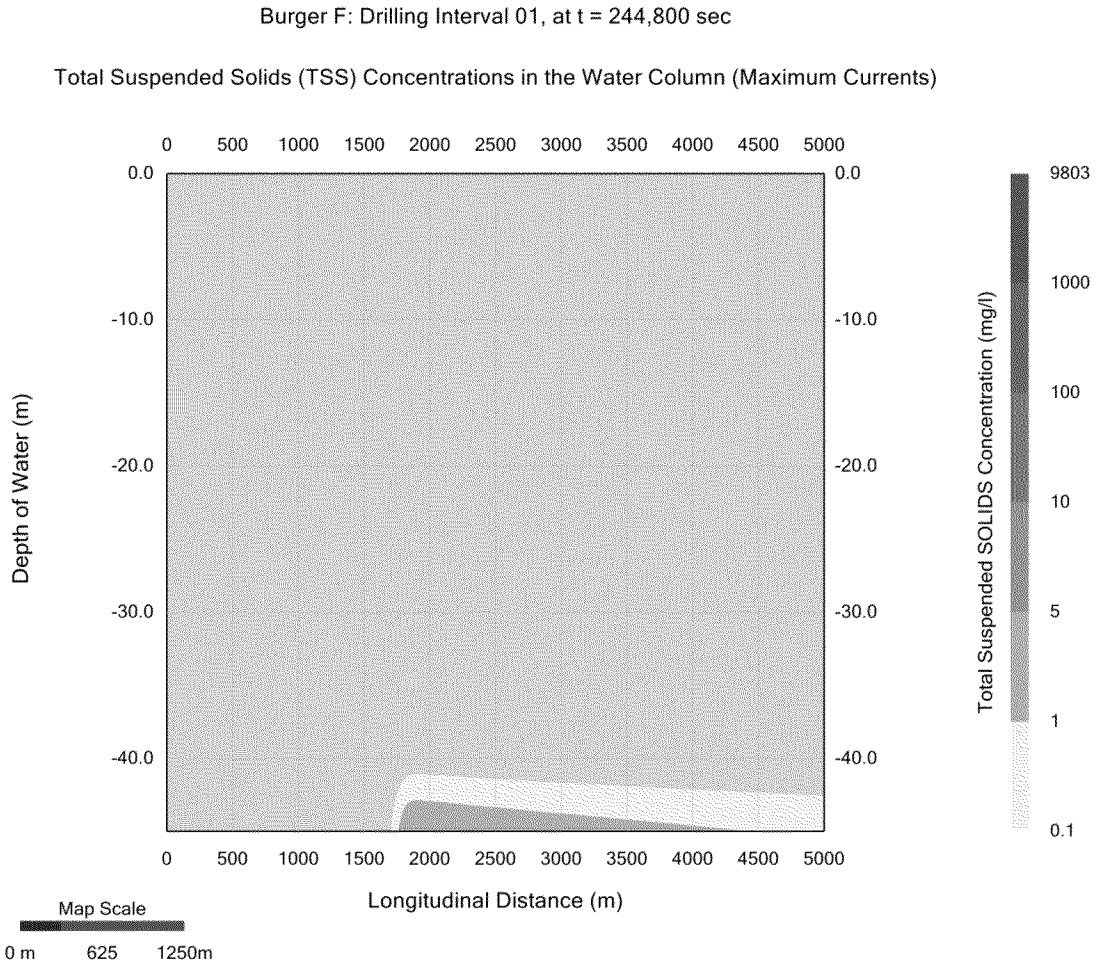


Figure 6-3d: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 69 h (or 3 h after the cessation of release)

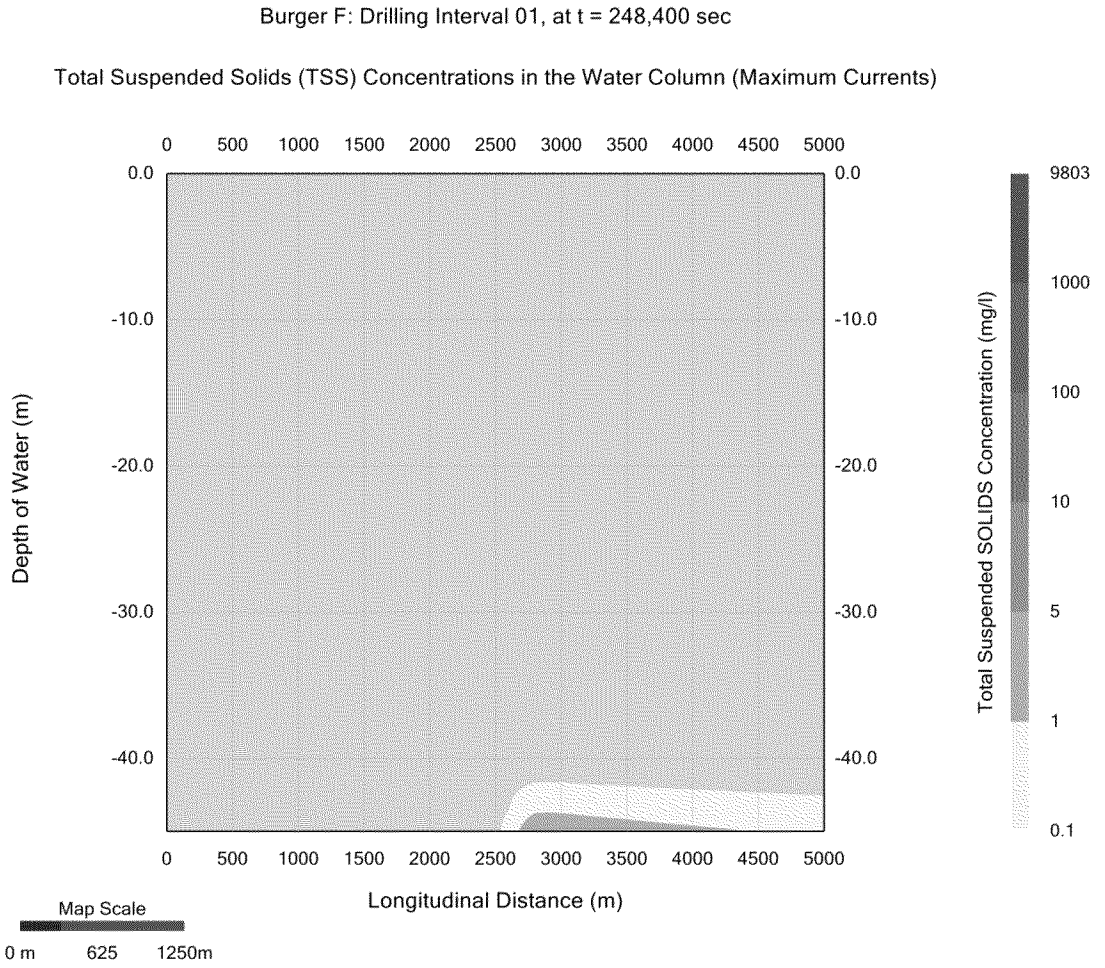


Figure 6-3e: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 70 h (or 4 h after the cessation of release)

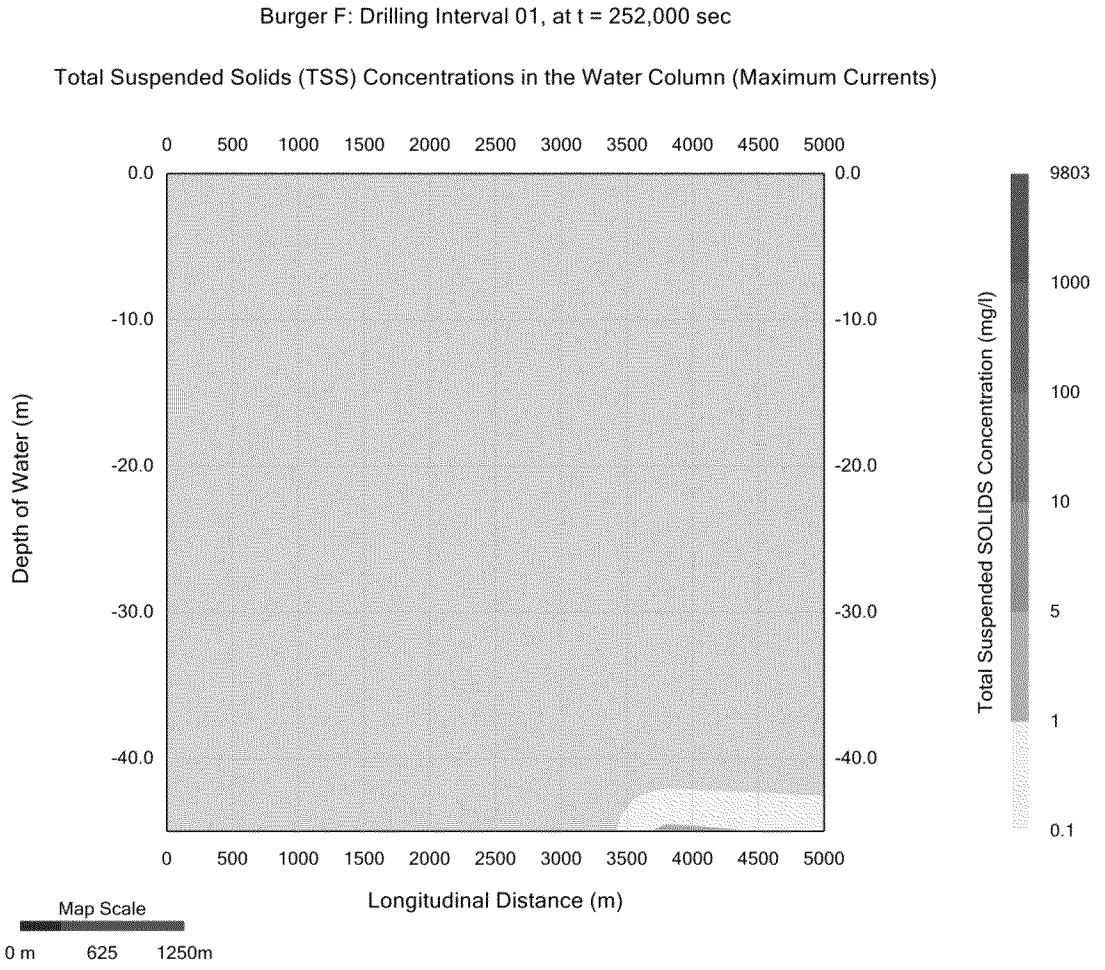


Figure 6-3f: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 71 h (or 5 h after the cessation of release)

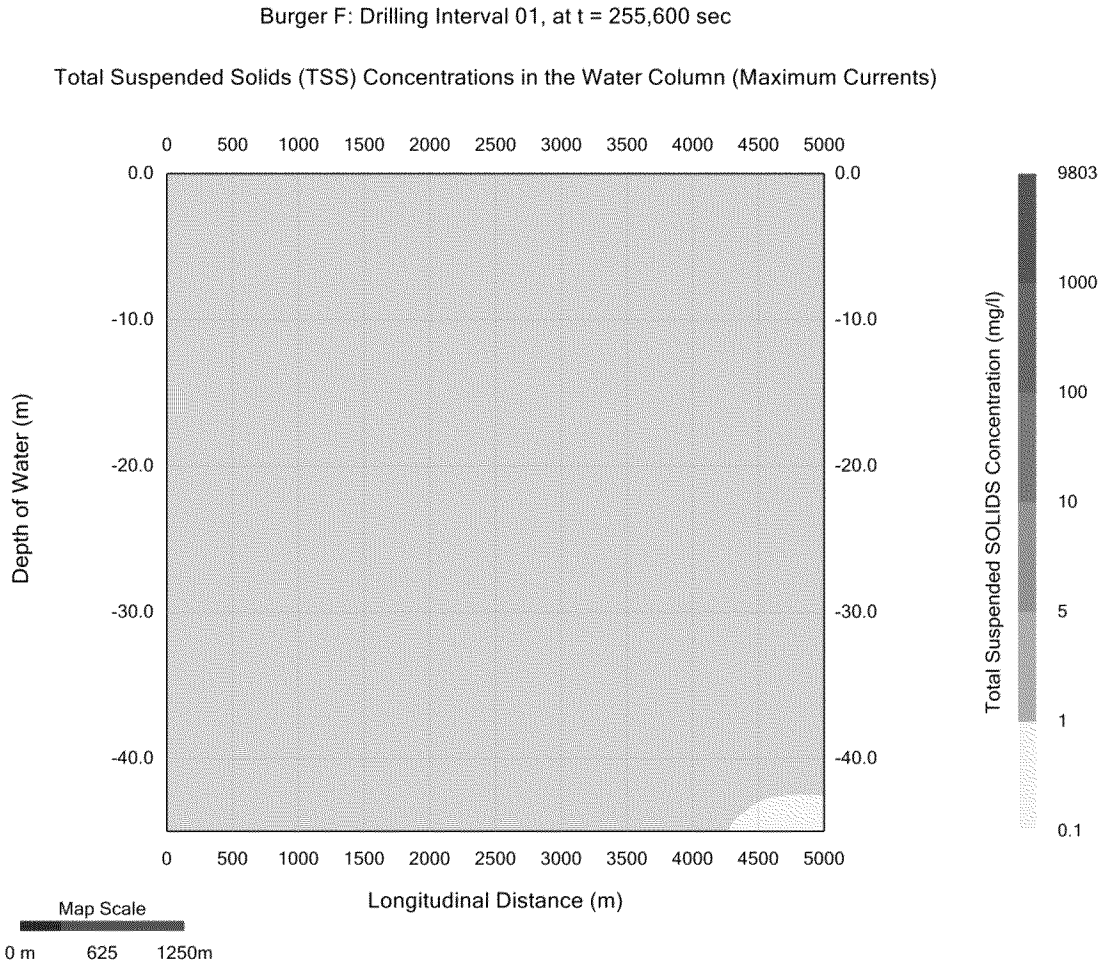
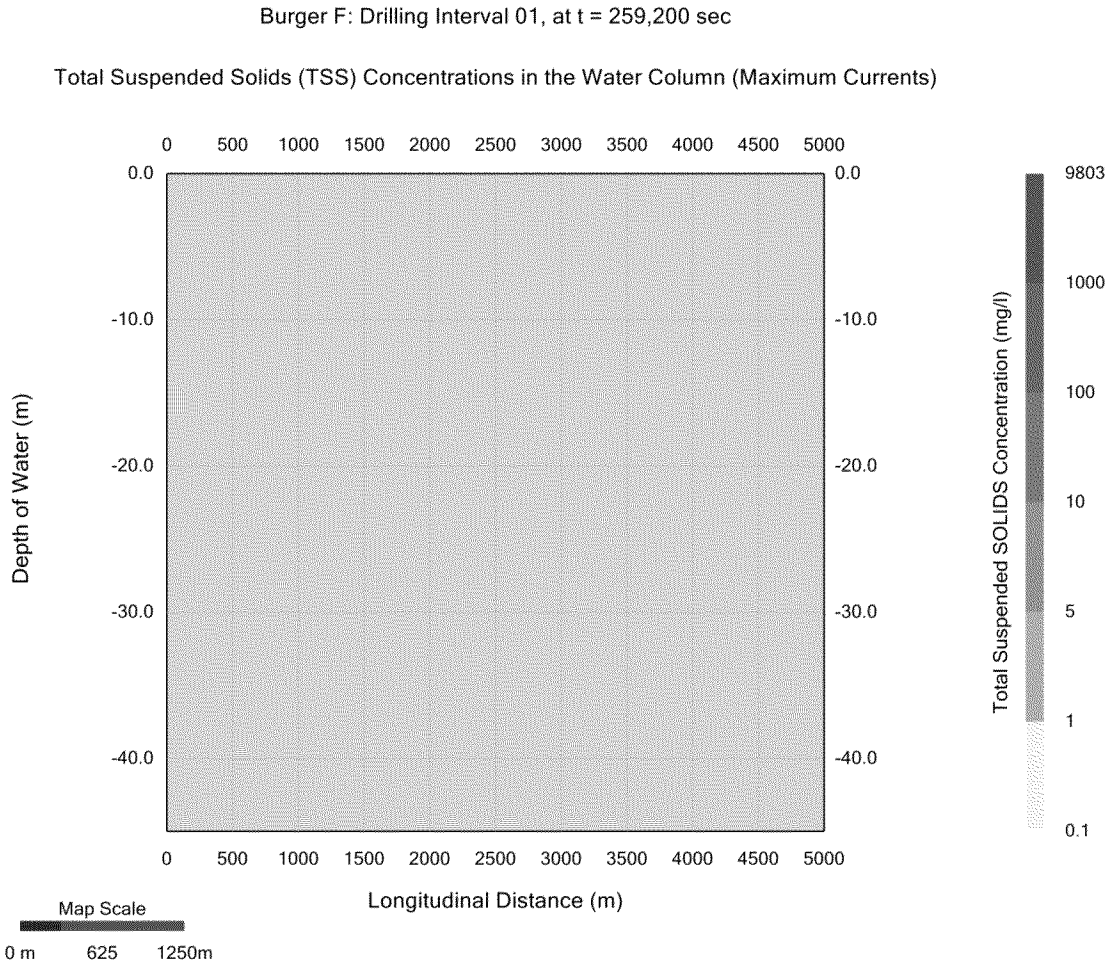


Figure 6-3g: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 72 h (or 6 h after the cessation of release)

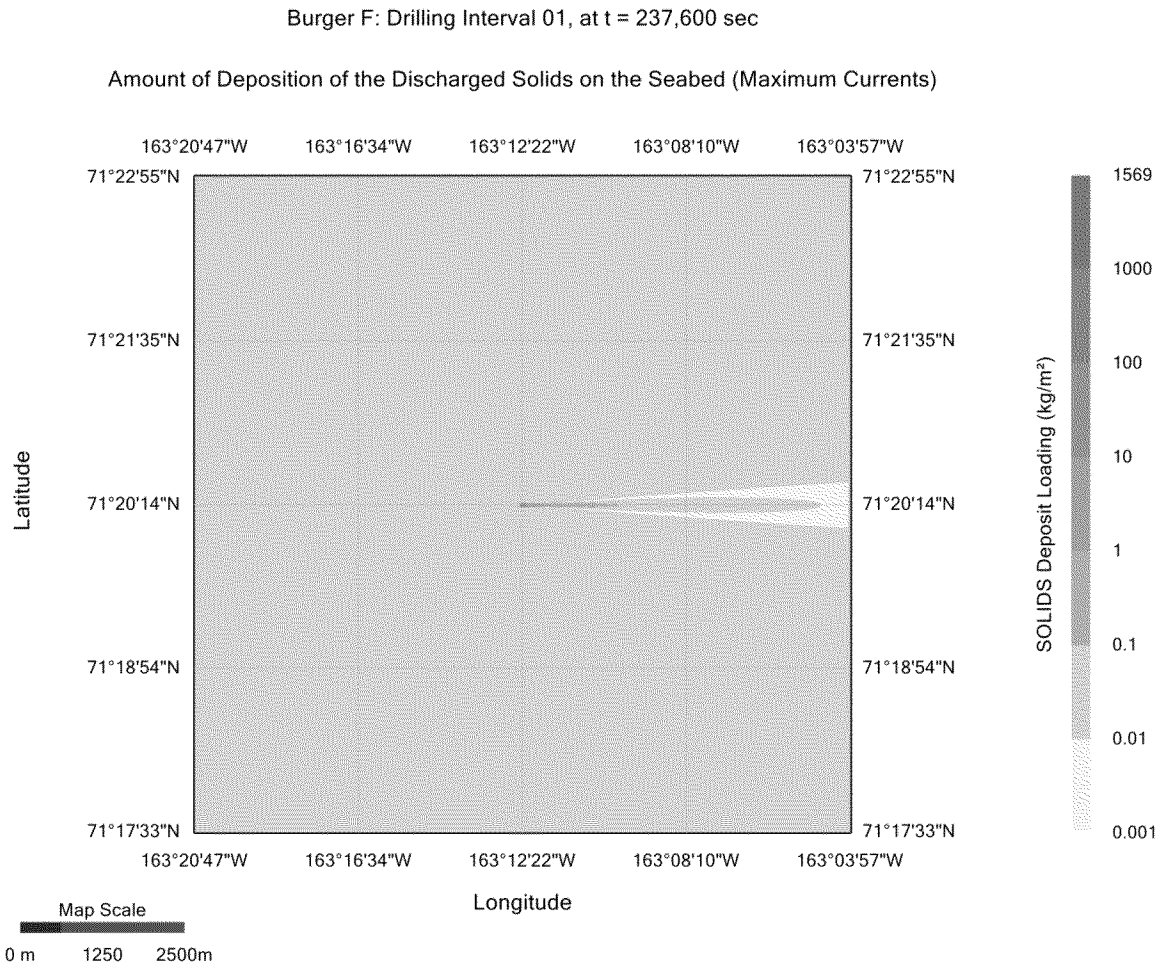


AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent and the amount of solids loading on the sea floor at time, t = **237,600** sec (or **66.0** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figure 6-4**. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as shown in Figure **6-4**. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The maximum loading **1,569** kg/m^2 occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **10** kg/m^2 and **1** kg/m^2 at distances approximately **90** m and **425** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 approximately between **425** and **1,500** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **0.1** kg/m^2 to **0.01** kg/m^2 approximately between **1,500** and **4,600** m distances from the discharge location. The loading is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **4,600** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **1000**-, **100**-, **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.096**, **0.184**, **0.435**, **1.967**, **7.767**, and **81.455** hectares (ha), respectively.

Figure 6-4: Amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 01



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of solids thickness of **1** cm or larger deposited on the sea floor at time, t = **237,600** sec (or **66.0** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figures 6-5a** and **6-5b.** The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular colorband. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. The solids deposited on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger as shown by a small dot, occurs on a very small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **6-5**a. The same result is presented in Figure **6-5**b but shows only **240** m x **240** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation of **1** cm or larger on the seabed. The maximum deposit thickness of **118.4** cm occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **85** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **100** m x **40** m rectangle area (or **0.425** ha) as presented in Figure **6-5**b. The sea floor areas affected by deposit thickness larger than **100**-, **10**-, and **1**-cm are: **0.087**, **0.171**, and **0.425** ha, respectively.

Figure 6-5a: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 01

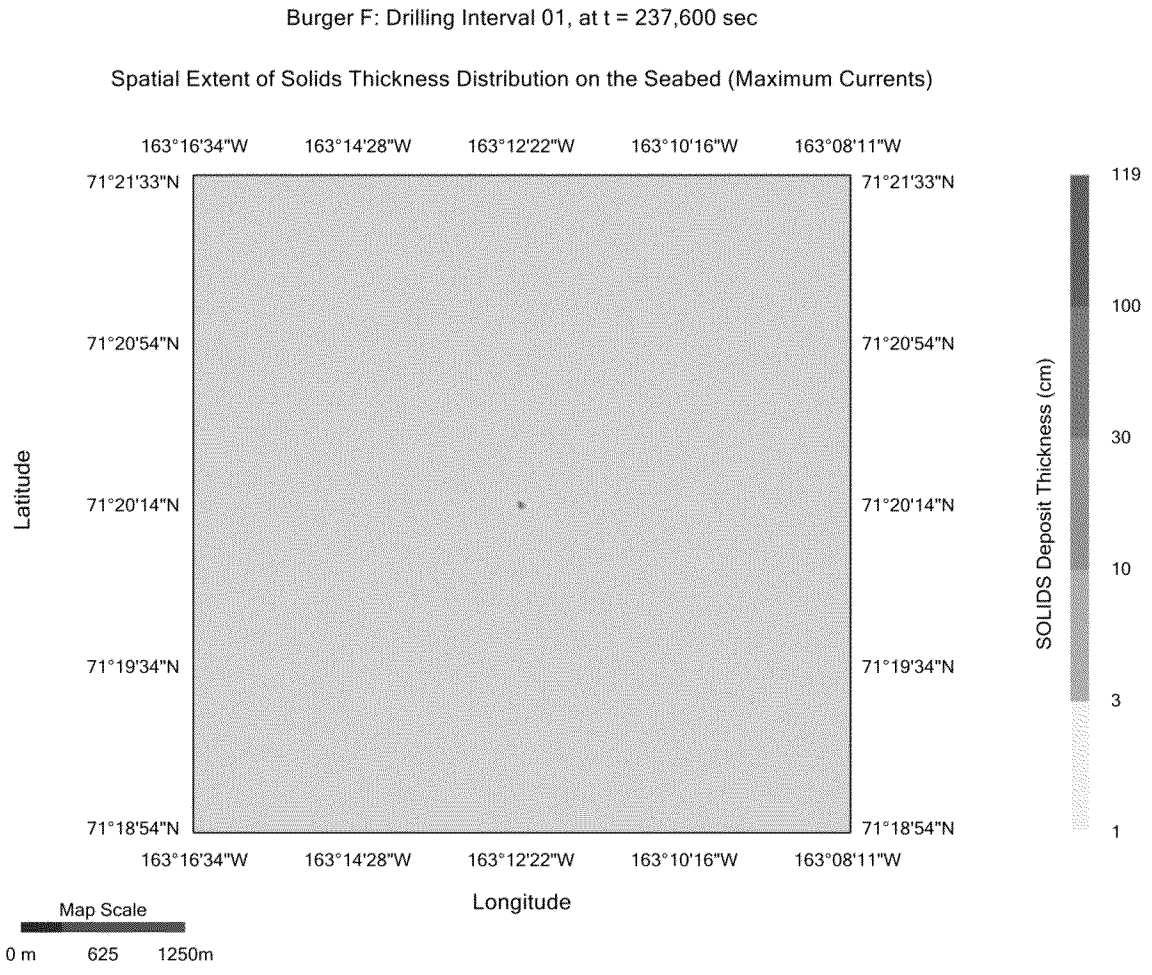
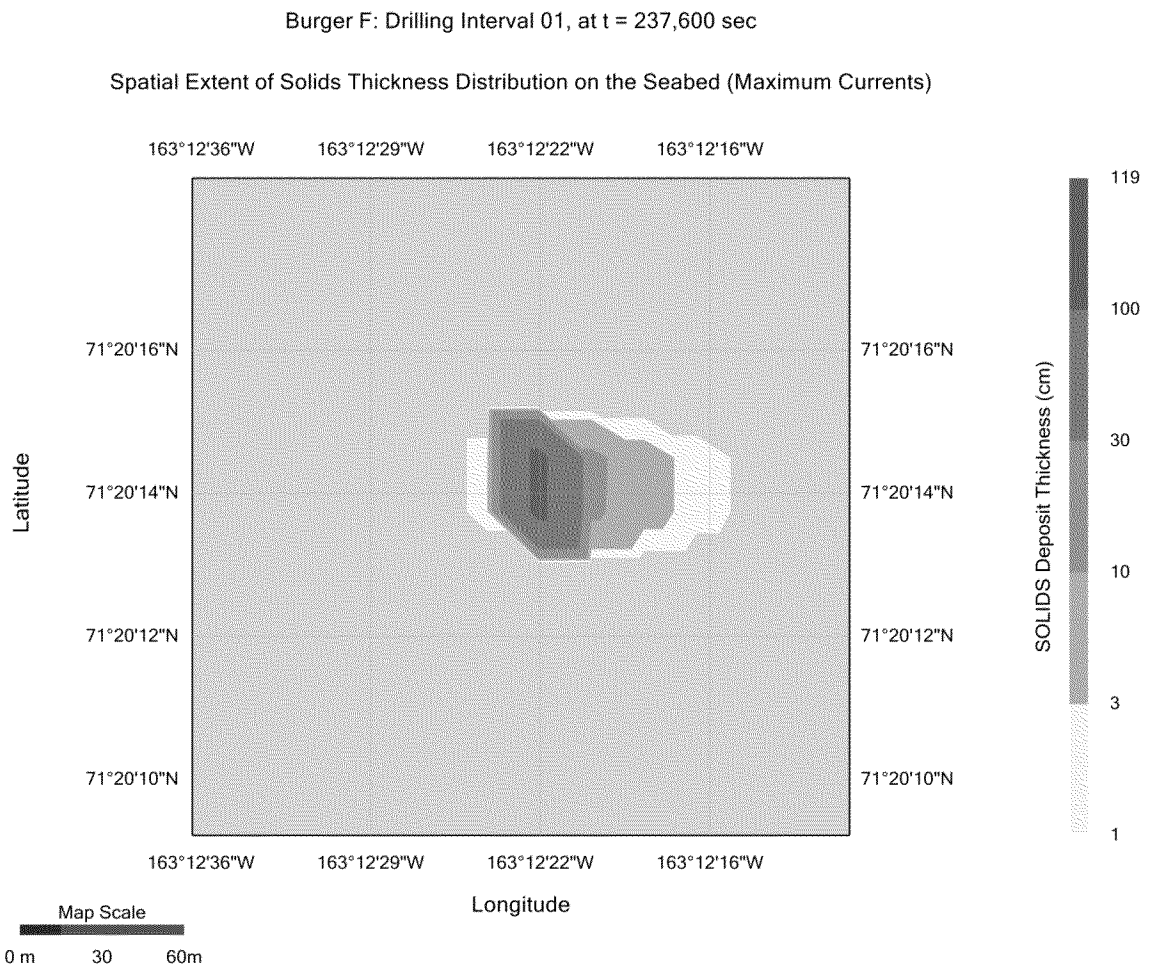


Figure 6-5b: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 01 (Zoom In View)



6.2 Model Results for Sea Floor Discharge Scenario – Drilling Interval 02

Trajectory and Shape of the Discharge Plume

The trajectory of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 6-6**. The depth of water is **45.0** m and the discharge occurs at a depth of **43.17** m from a **12.0** inches internal diameter discharge pipe of the sea floor pump at **14,000** bbls/hour. A flexible hose suction pipe of this sea floor pump moves the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids from the drill strings and discharges at **1.83** m (or **6** feet) above the seafloor. The discharge pipe is oriented horizontally aligned with the direction of the current, which is to theeast. Therefore, the heavier discharge plume attempts to shoot horizontally as seen in Figure **6-6** and travels to the east to a distance approximately **0.35** m only from the discharge location before collapsing onto the sea floor due to the proximity of the plume near the sea floor. The shape and width of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 6-7**. The width of the plume is approximately **0.35** m at a distance **0.35** m from the discharge location. The solid lines present the outer boundaries and dotted line presents the center line of the discharge plumein Figures **6-6** and **6-7**.

Figure 6-6: Trajectory of the discharge plume at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 02

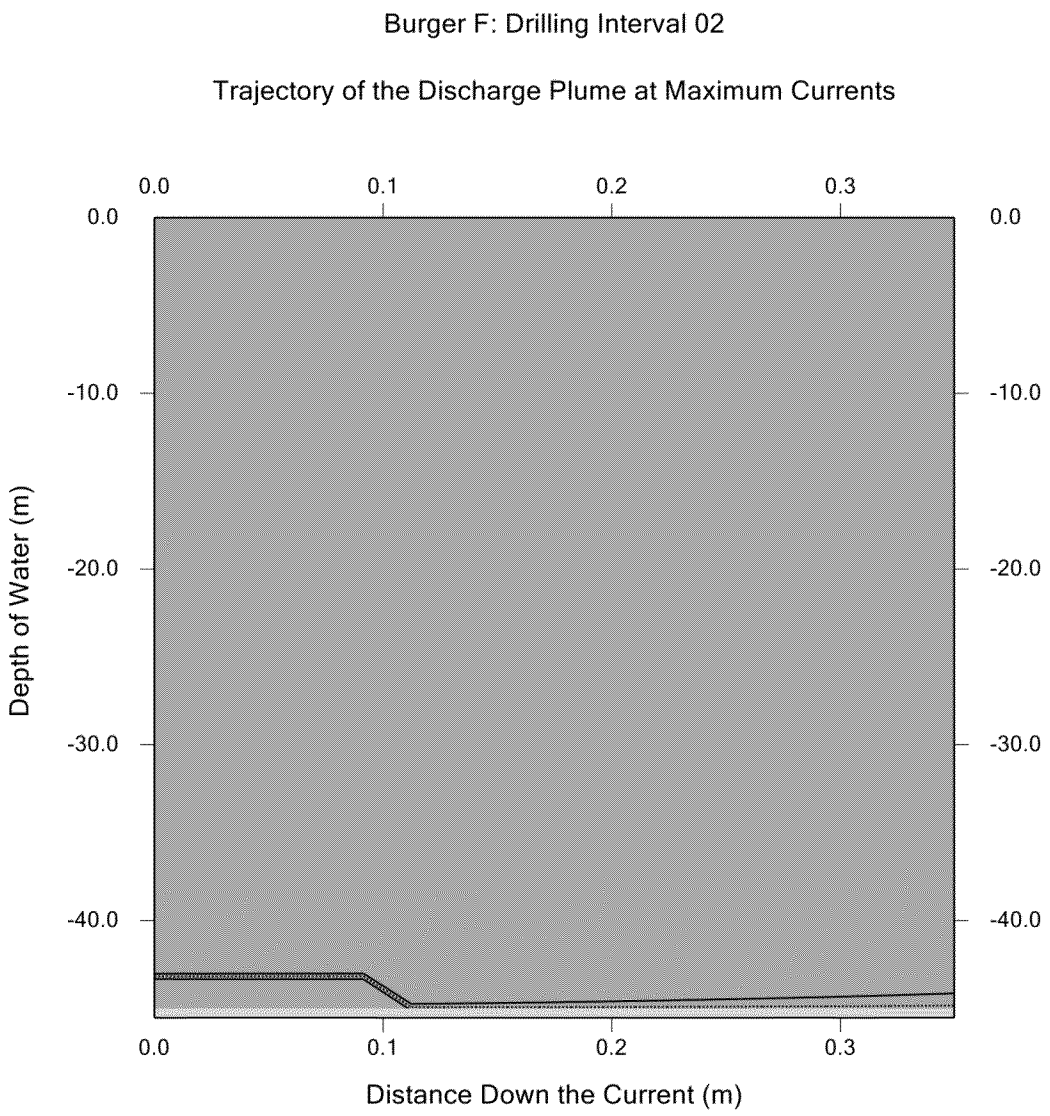
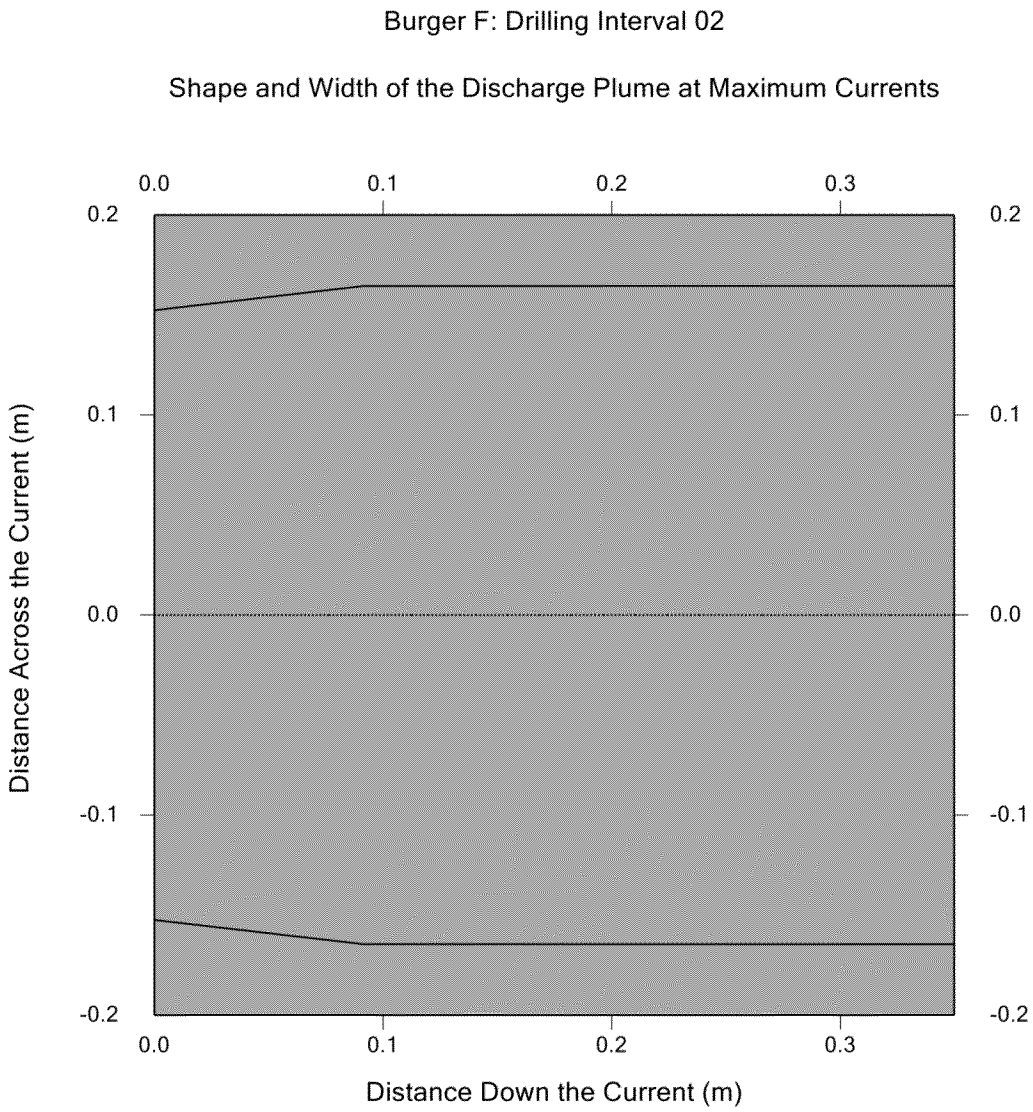


Figure 6-7: Shape and width of the discharge plume at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 02

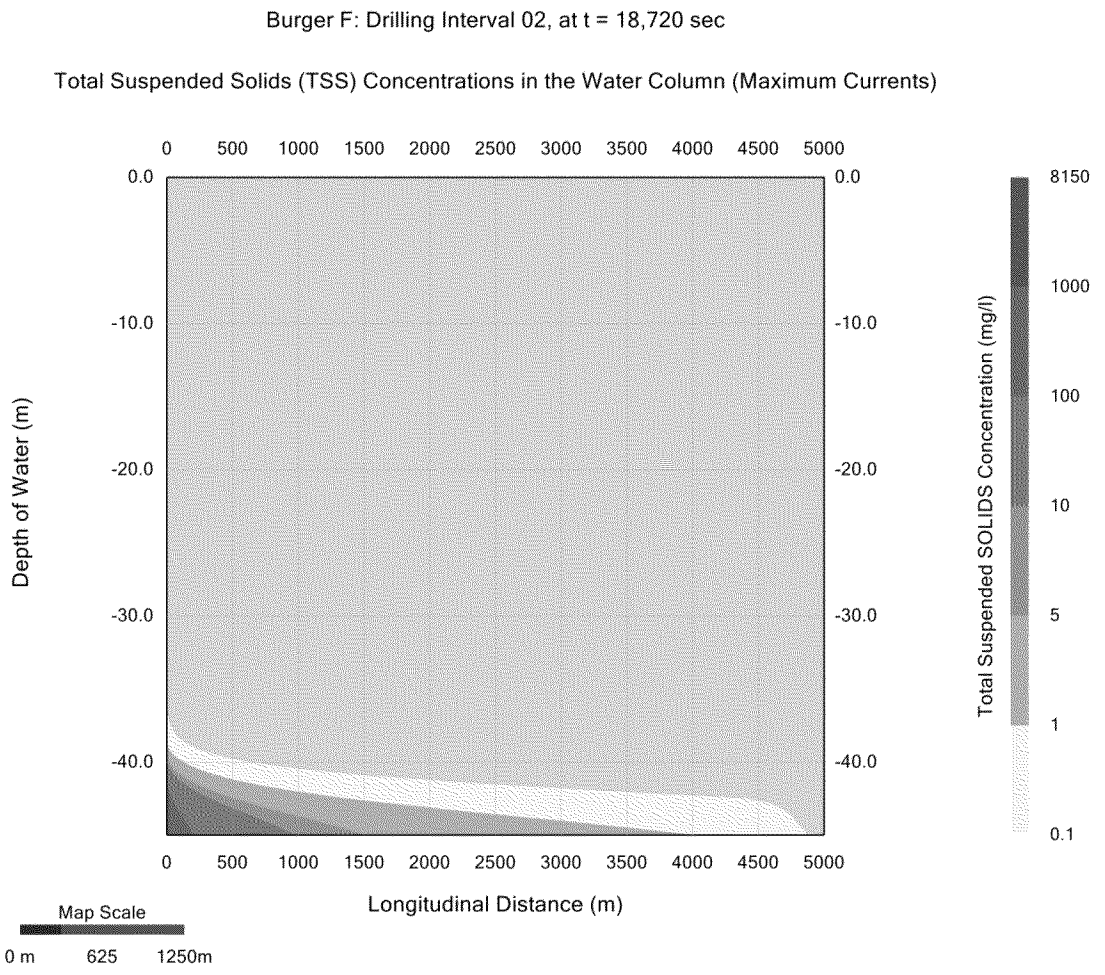


TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE WATER COLUMN

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column at time, t = **18,720** sec (or **5.2** hours) which is the discharge duration for this drilling interval is presented in **Figure 6-8a**. The depth of water is **45.0** m at the discharge location. The discharge occurs at a depth of **43.17** m from a **12.0** inches internal diameter discharge pipe. Figure **6-8**a presents the maximum TSS concentrations attained during the discharge. The color filled contours present the variations of the TSS concentrations both with respect to the depth from the sea surface andthe distance from the source by different color bands. The maximum TSS concentration **8150** mg/l occurs at the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **100** mg/l and **10** mg/l at distances approximately **200** m and **950** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **10** to **5** mg/l approximately between **950**and **1,440** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **5** to **1** mg/l between **1**,**440** and **3,850** m distances from the discharge location. It is less than **1**mg/l beyond **3,850** m from the discharge location. The effect of the sea floor pump is visible in this Figure **6-8a**. The discharge plume is spreading farther horizontally to the east along the direction of the current than vertically. The TSS concentration is less than**0.1** mg/l at a depth approximately **30** m at or near the discharge location. It is less than **1** mg/l at a depth approximately **40** m or less at **500** m from the discharge location.

The maximum TSS concentrations at **10**-, **30**-, **100**-, **300**-, and **1000**-m from the discharge location are: **1,708.9 594.2**, **211.7**, **58.7**, and **9.3** mg/l, respectively.

Figure 6-8a: Total suspended solids concentrations in water column at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 02



FATE AND TRANSPORT OF THE TSS

The discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids ceases at time, t = **18**,**720** sec (or **5**.**2** hours). The fate and transport of the discharged solids at times **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **5**, and **6** h after the cessation of the discharge are presented by **Figures 6-8**b, **6-8**c, **6-8**d, **6-8**e, **6-8**f, and **6-8**g. These figures show that the TSS concentrations within the **5.0** km model domain decrease to: **10** mg/l or less at **1** h, **5** mg/l or less at **2** h, **5** mg/l or less at **3** h, **1** mg/l or less at **4** h, **1** mg/l or less at **5** h, and less than **0**.**1** mg/l at **6** h after the cessation of the discharge. Therefore, it can be described that the ambient TSS concentrations attains pre-existing conditions between **5** and **6** h after the cessation of the discharge based on the assumption that the ambient TSS valueis equal to or more than **0**.**1** mg/l within the model domain.

Figure 6-8b: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 6.2 h (or 1 h after the cessation of release)

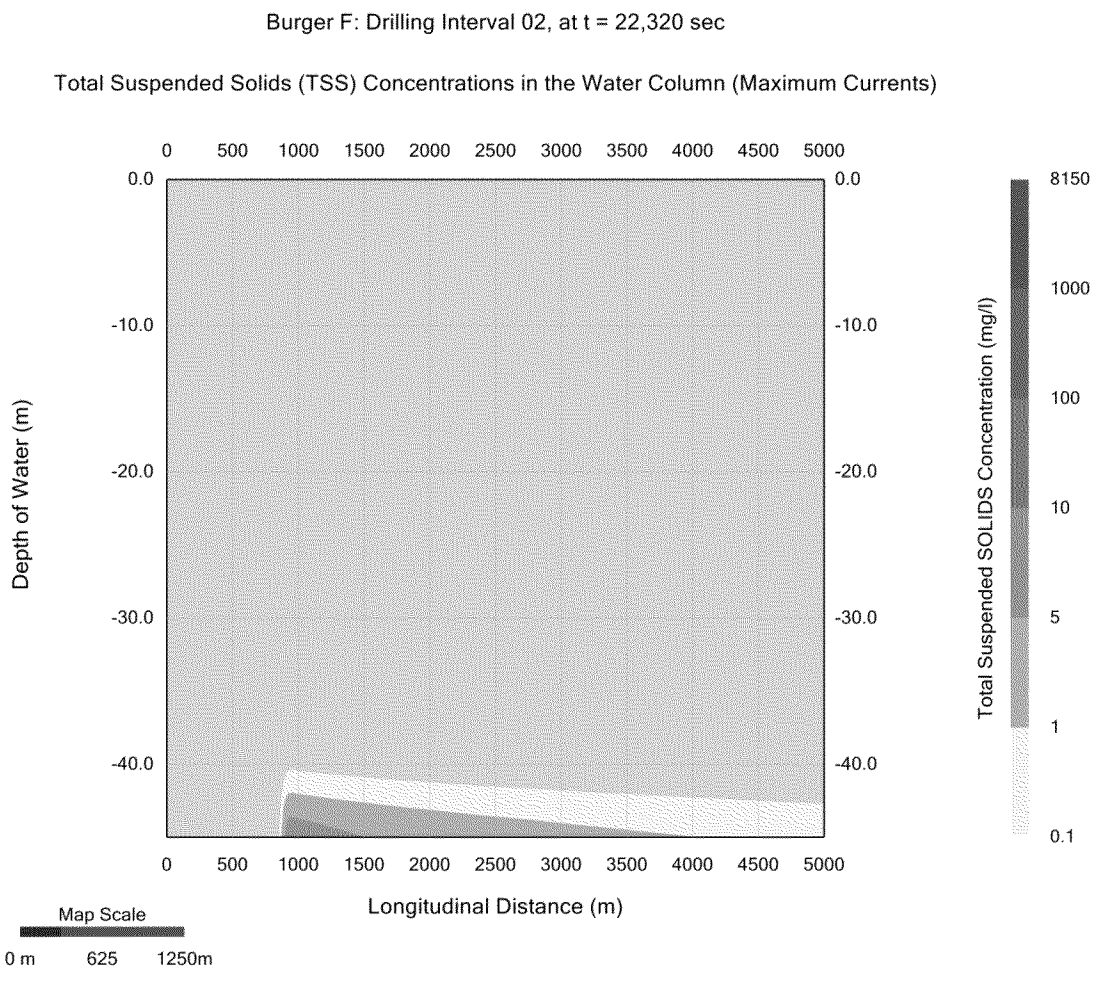


Figure 6-8c: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 7.2 h (or 2 h after the cessation of release)

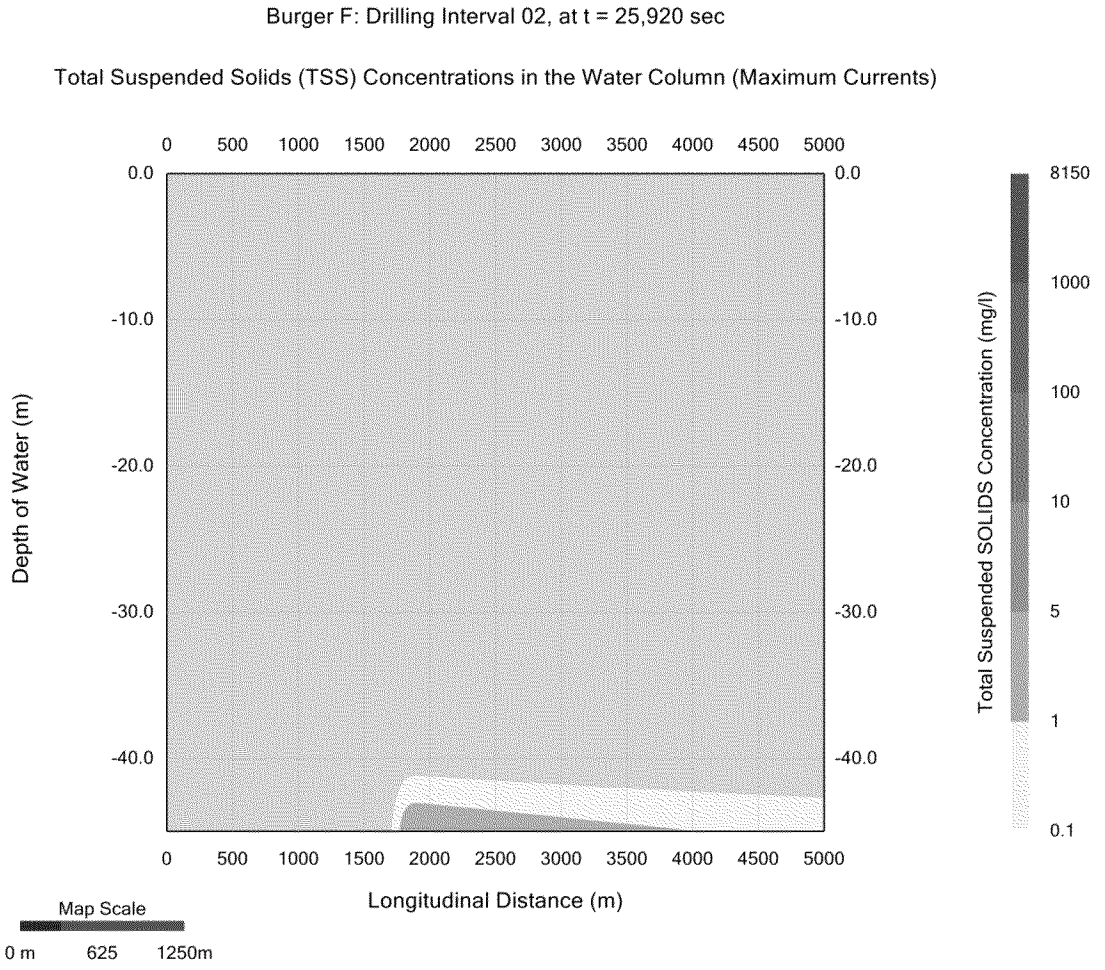


Figure 6-8d: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 8.2 h (or 3 h after the cessation of release)

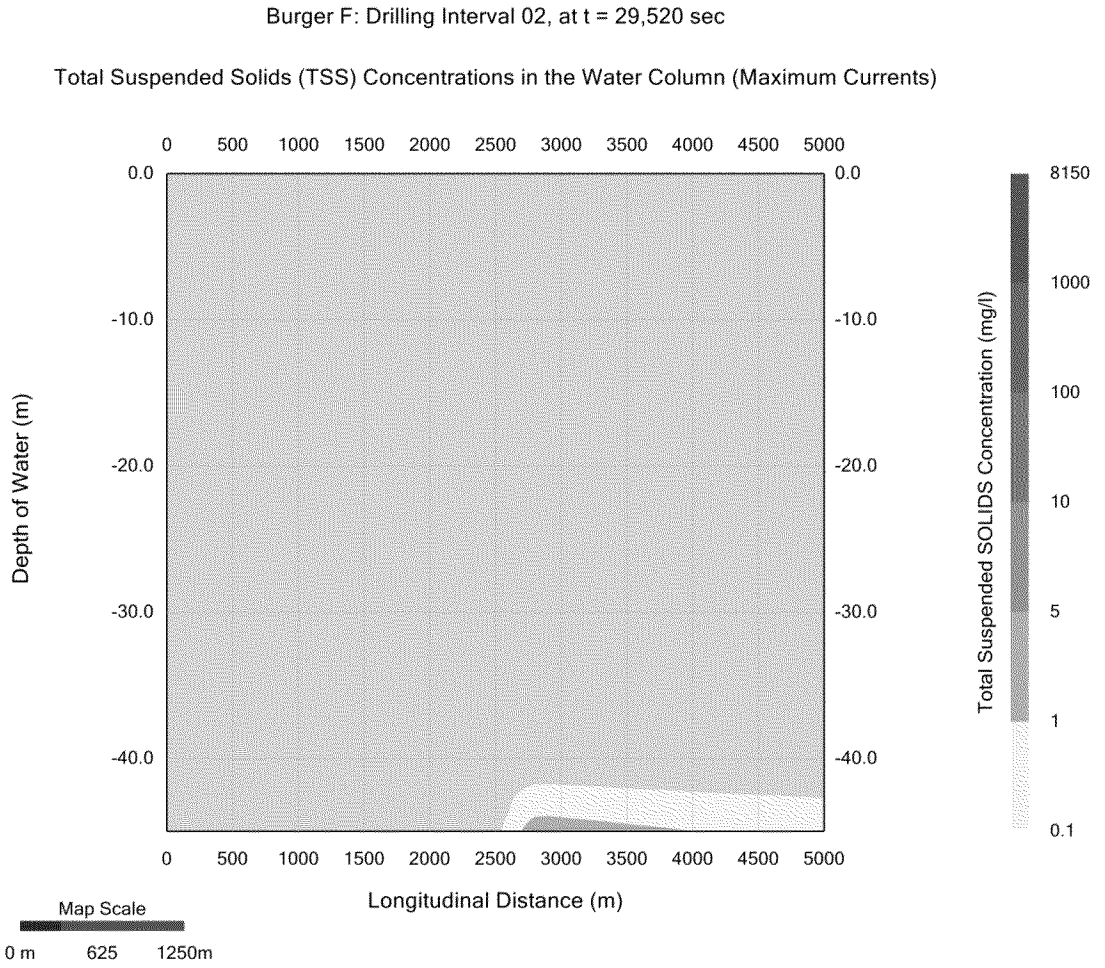


Figure 6-8e: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 9.2 h (or 4 h after the cessation of release)

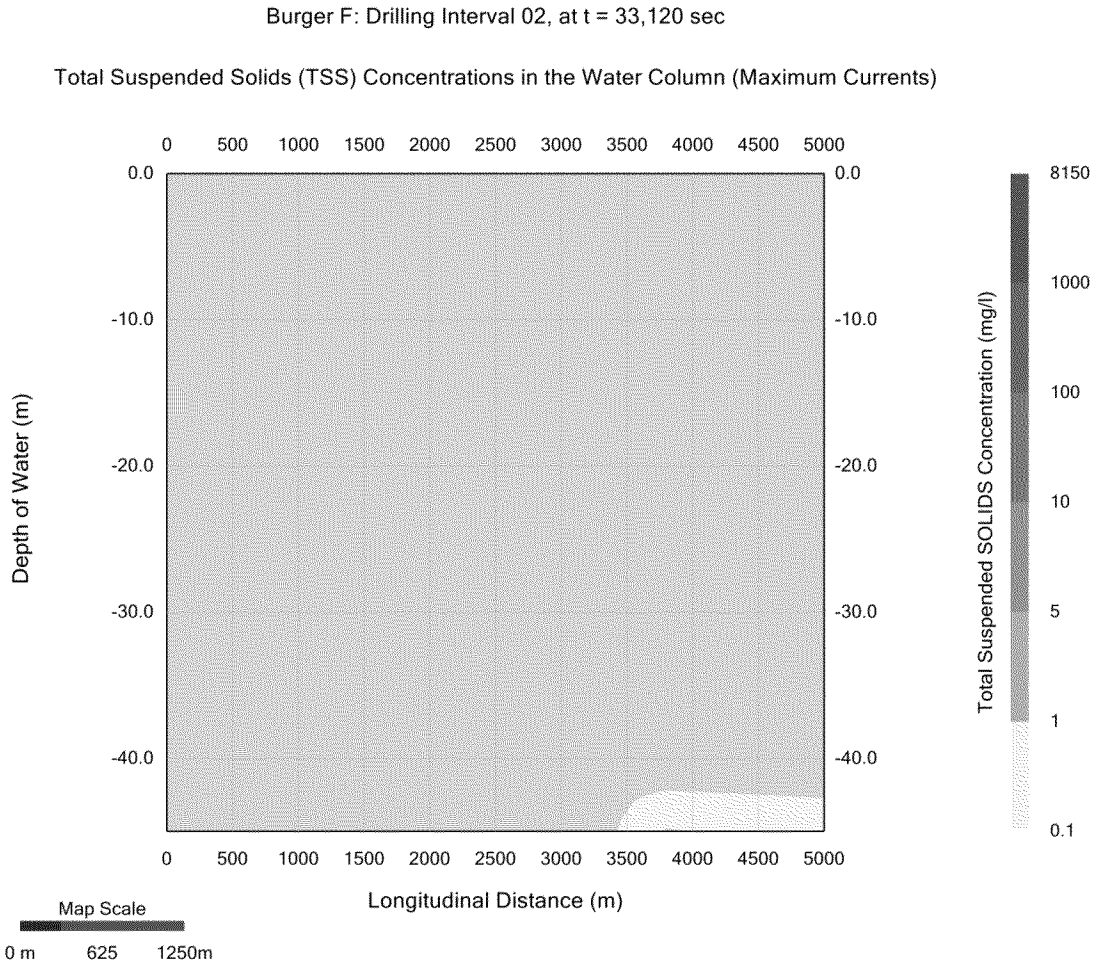


Figure 6-8f: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 10.2 h (or 5 h after the cessation of release)

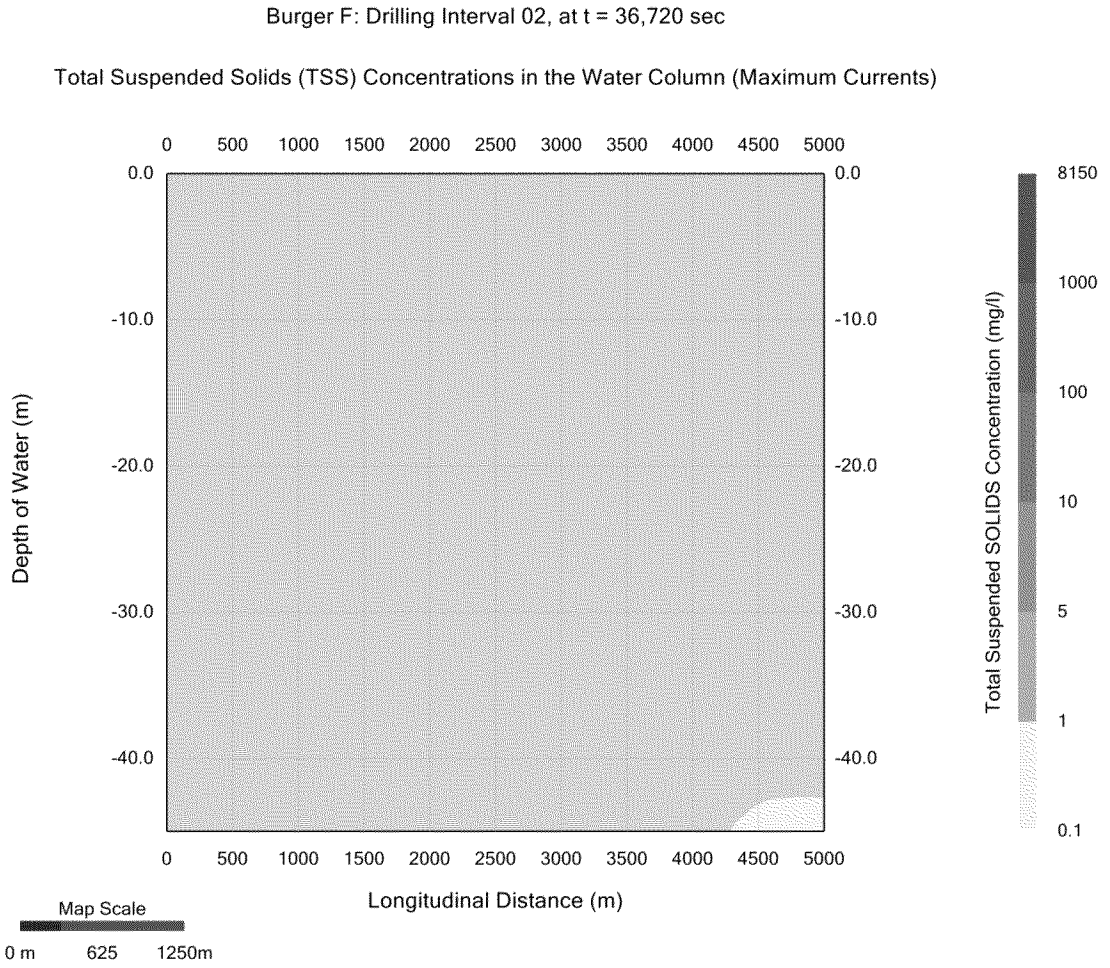
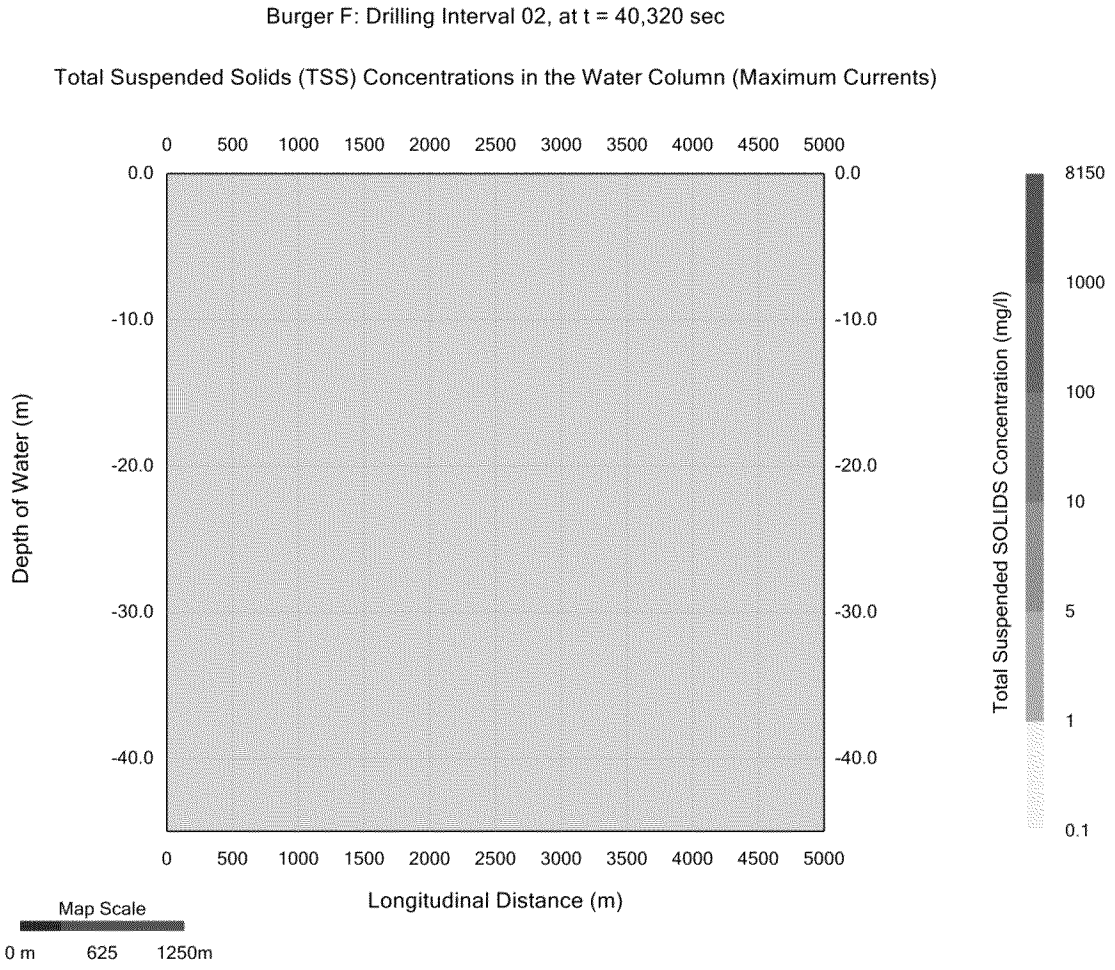


Figure 6-8g: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 11.2 h (or 6 h after the cessation of release)

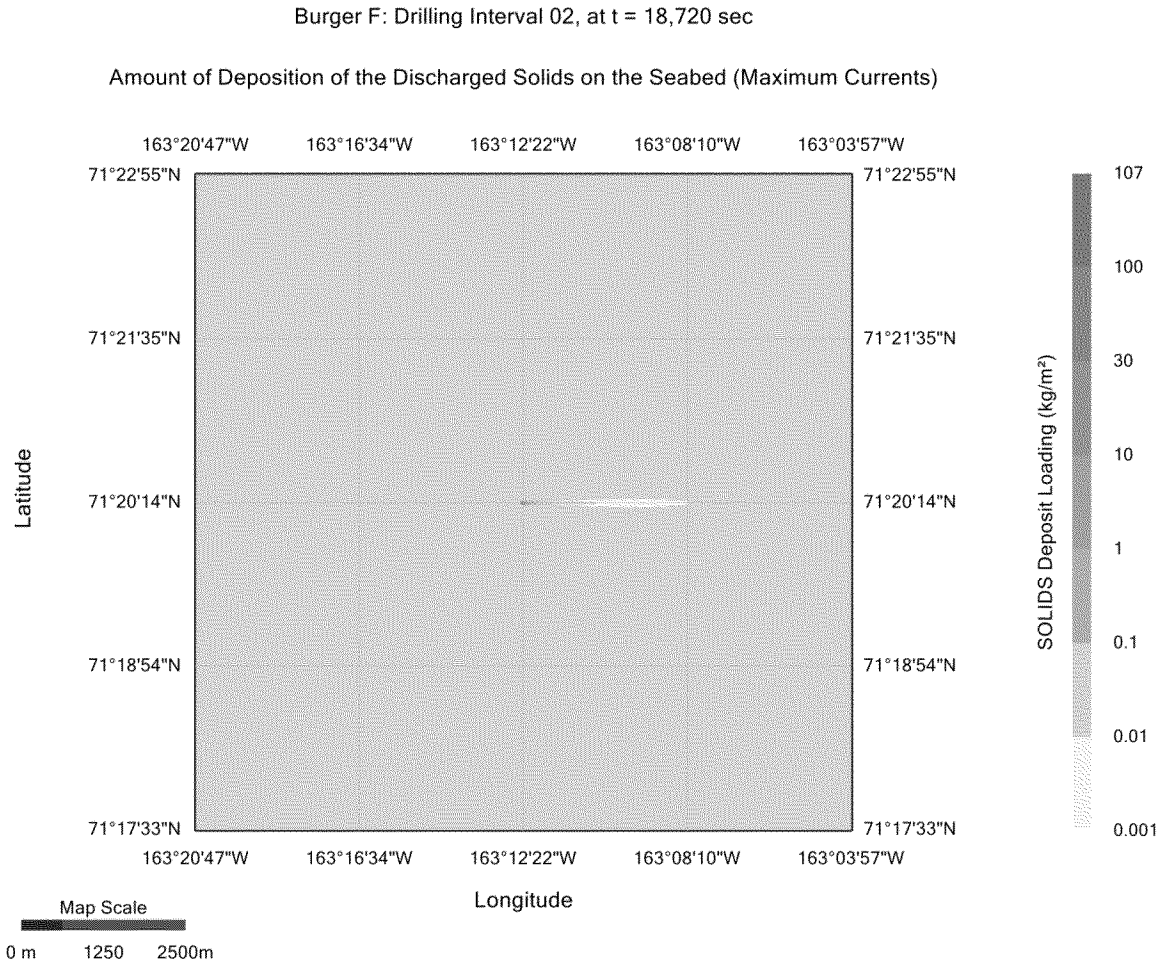


AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent and the amount of solids loading on the sea floor at time, t = **18,720** sec (or **5.2** hours) as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figure 6-9**. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as shown in Figure **6-9**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of this figure. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The maximum loading of **106** kg/m^2 occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **10** kg/m^2 and **1** kg/m^2 at distances approximately **30** m and **70** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 approximately between **70** and **250** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **0.1** kg/m^2 to **0.01** kg/m^2 approximately between **250** and **1,130** m distances from the discharge location. The loading is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **1,130** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **100**-, **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.083**, **0.119**, **0.413**, **1.072**, and **4.567** ha, respectively.

Figure 6-9: Amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 02



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of solids thickness of **1** cm or larger deposited on the sea floor at time, t = **18,720** sec (or **5.2** hours) as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figures 6-10a** and **6-10b.** The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular colorband. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. But the solids deposit on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger as shown by a small dot, occurs on a very small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **6-10**a. The same result is presented in Figure **6-10**b but shows only **240** m x **240** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation of **1** cm or larger on the seabed. The maximum deposit thickness of **8.0** cm occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **30** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **30** m x **40** m square area (or **0.118** ha) as presented in Figure **6-10**b. The sea floor areas affected by deposit thickness larger than **1**-cm is: **0.118** ha, respectively.

Figure 6-10a: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 02

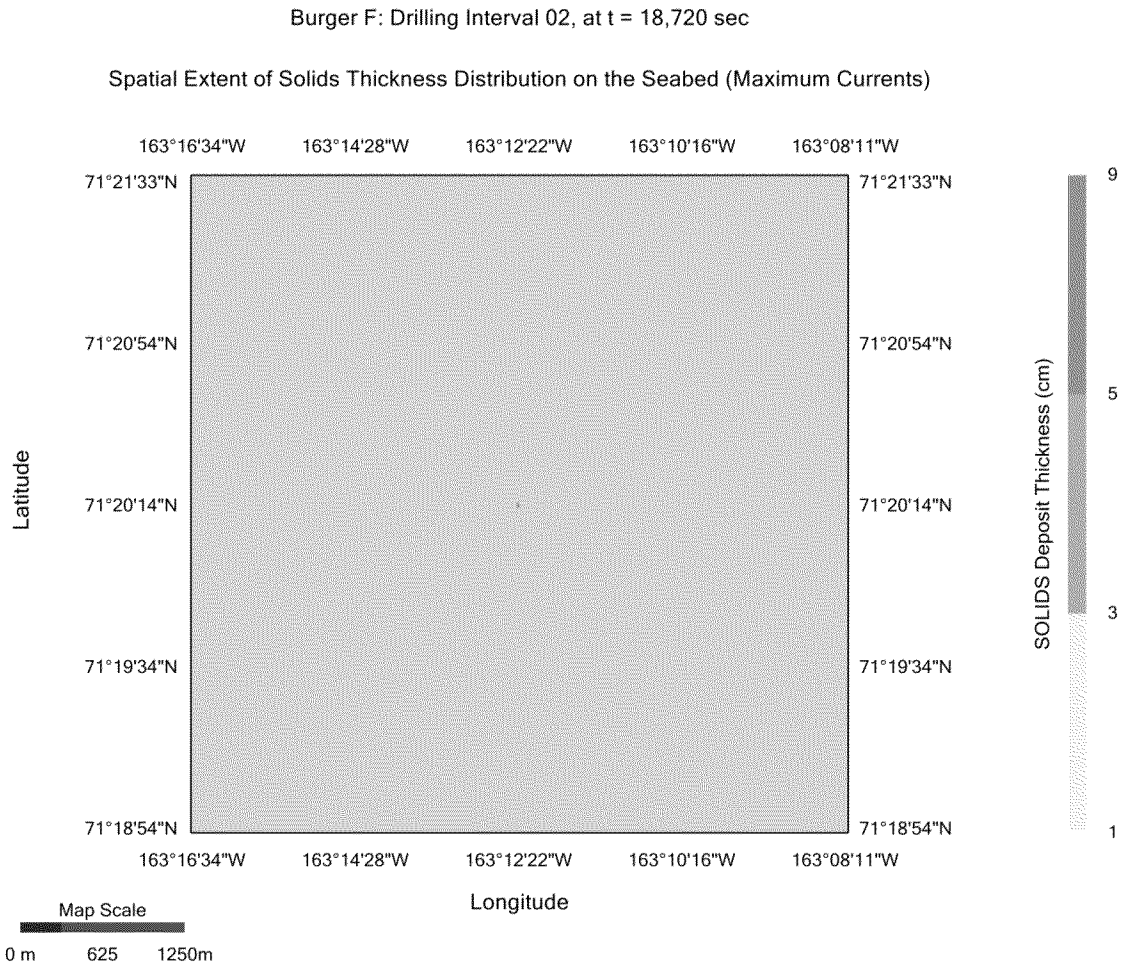
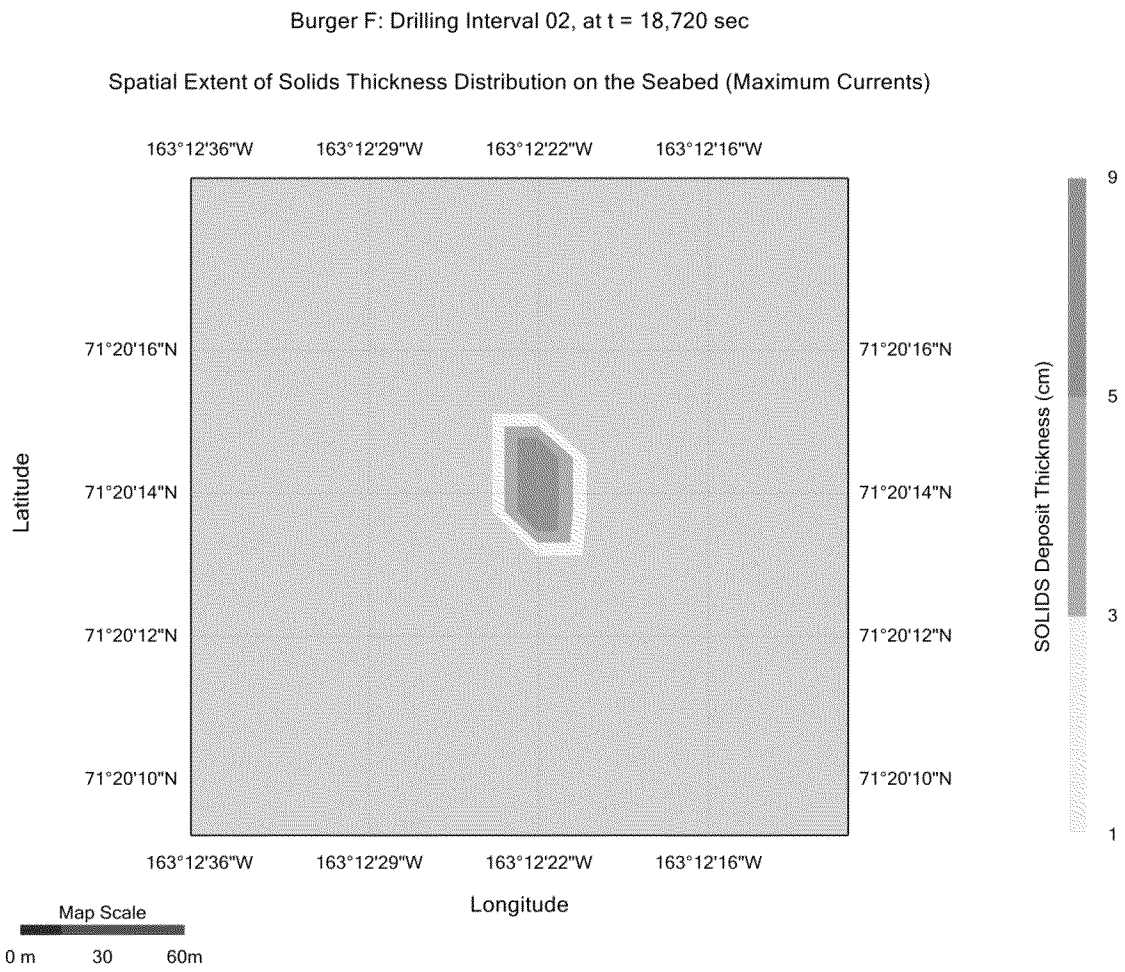


Figure 6-10b: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 02 (Zoom In View)



6.3 Model Results for Sea Floor Discharge Scenario – Drilling Interval 03

Trajectory and Shape of the Discharge Plume

The trajectory of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 6-11**. The depth of water is **45.0** m and the discharge occurs at a depth of **43.17** m from a **12.0** inches internal diameter discharge pipe of the sea floor pump at **14,000** bbls/hour. A flexible hose suction pipe of this sea floor pump moves the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids from the drill strings and discharges at **1.83** m (or **6** feet) above the seafloor. The discharge pipe is oriented horizontally aligned with the direction of the current, which is to theeast. Therefore, the heavier discharge plume attempts to shoot horizontally as seen in figure below and travels to the east to a distance approximately **0.35** m only from the discharge location before collapsing onto the sea floor due to the proximity of the plume near the sea floor. The shape and width of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 6-12**. The width of the plume is approximately **0.35** m at a distance **0.35** m from the discharge location. The solid lines present the outer boundaries and dotted line presents the center line of the discharge plumein Figures **6-11** and **6-12**.

Figure 6-11: Trajectory of the discharge plume at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 03

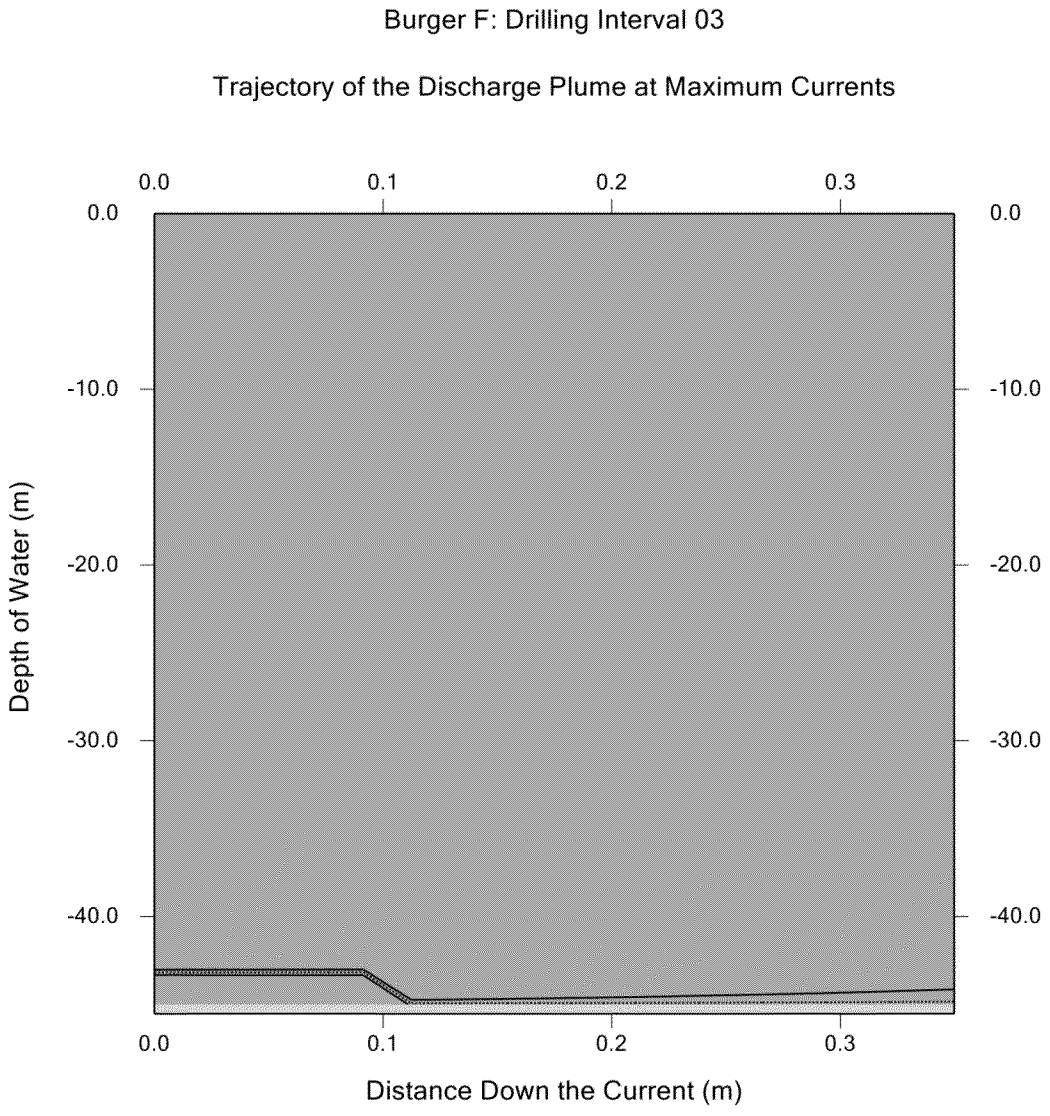
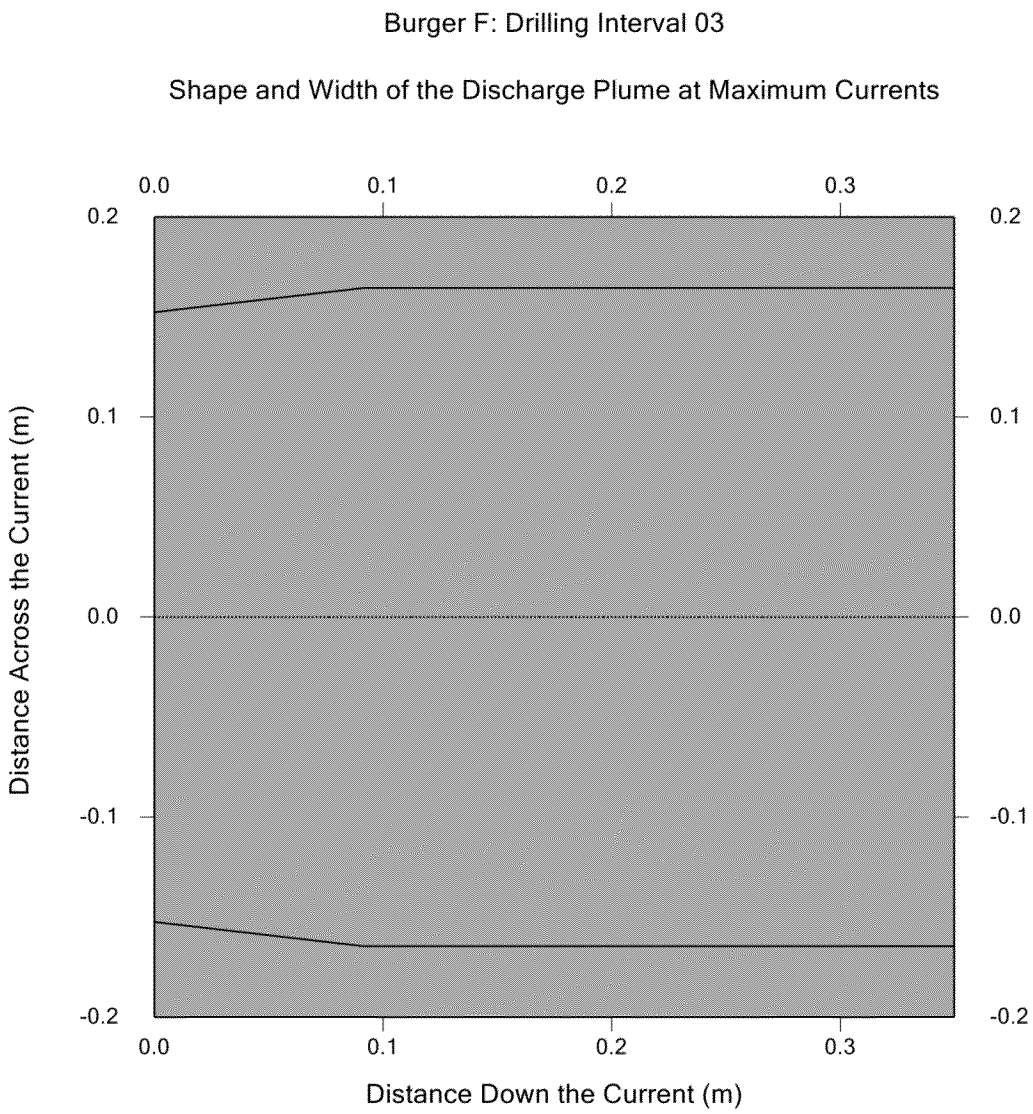


Figure 6-12: Shape and width of the discharge plume at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 03

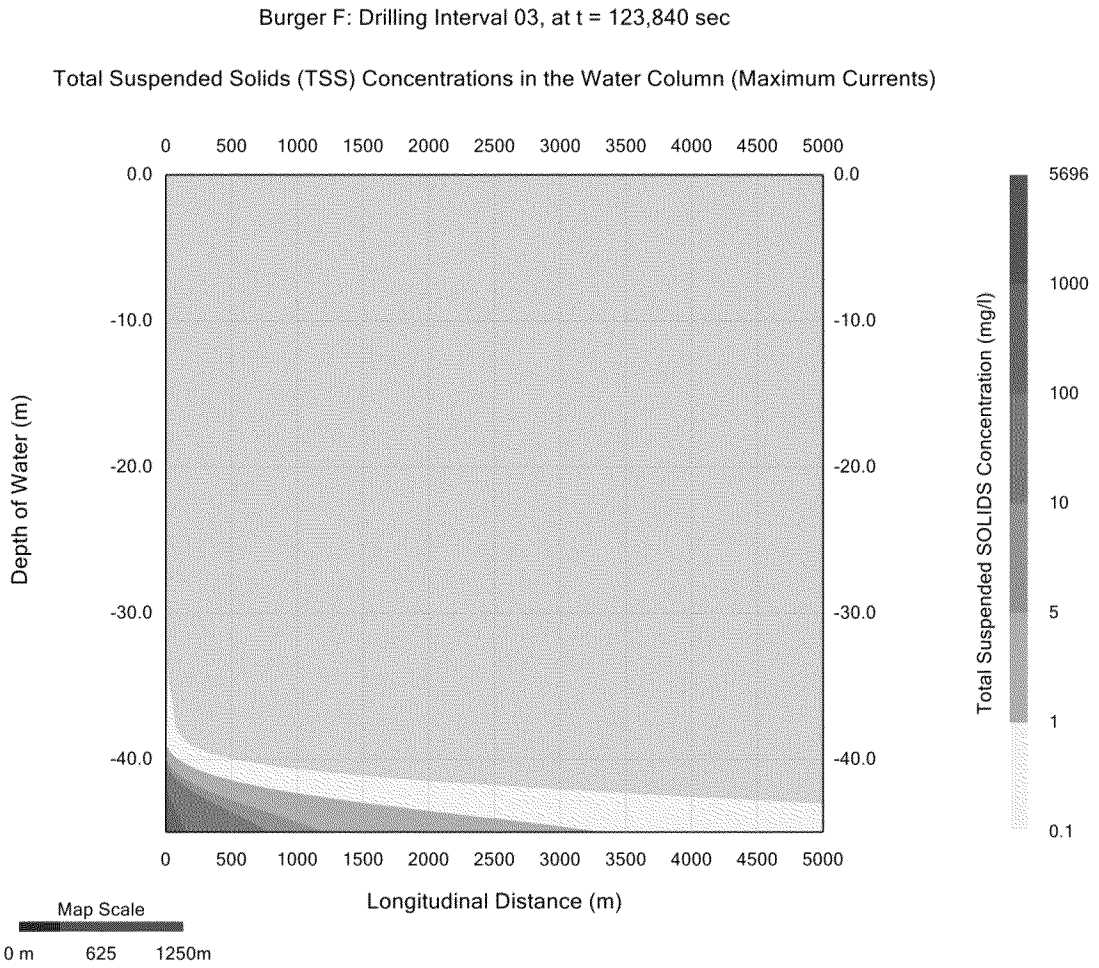


TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE WATER COLUMN

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column at time, t = **123,840** sec (or **34.4** hours) which is the discharge duration for this drilling interval is presented in **Figure 6-13a**. The depth of water is **45.0** m at the discharge location. The discharge occurs at a depth of **43.17** m from a **12.0** inches internal diameter discharge pipe. Figure **6-13**a presents the maximum TSS concentrations attained during the discharge. The color filled contours present the variations of the TSS concentrations both with respect to the depth from the sea surface and the distance from the source by different color bands. The maximum TSS concentration **5,696** mg/l occurs at the source. It decreases to a value of **100** mg/l at a distance approximately **150** m from the discharge location. It varies from **100** to **10** mg/l between **150** and **730** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **10** to **5** mg/l between **730** and **1,150** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **5** to **1** mg/l between **1,150** and **3,200** m distances from the discharge location. It is less than **1** mg/l beyond **3,200** m from the discharge location. The effect of the sea floor pump is visible in this Figure **6-13a**. The discharge plume is spreading farther horizontally to the east along the direction of the current than vertically. The TSS concentration is less than **0.1** mg/l at a depth approximately **30** m at or near the discharge location. It is less than **1** mg/l at a depth approximately **40** m at **500** m from the discharge location.

The maximum TSS concentrations at **10**-, **30**-, **100**-, **300**-, and **1000**-m from the discharge location are: **1,092.3**, **431.6**, **148.1**, **42.2**, and **6.6** mg/l, respectively.

Figure 6-13a: Total suspended solids concentrations in water column at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 03



FATE AND TRANSPORT OF THE TSS

The discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids ceases at time, t = **123**,**840** sec (or **34.4** hours). The fate and transport of the discharged solids at times **1**, **2**, **3**, **4, 5**, and **6** h after the cessation of the discharge are presented by **Figures 6-13**b**, 6-13**c**, 6-13**d**, 6-13**e**, 6-13**f**,** and **6-13**g**.** These figures show that the TSS concentrations within the **5.0** km model domain decrease to: **10** mg/l or less at **1** h, **5** mg/l or less at **2** h, **5** mg/l or less at **3** h, **1** mg/l or less at **4** h, **1** mg/l or less at **5** h, and less than **0.1** mg/l at **6** h after the cessation of the discharge. Therefore, it can be described that the ambient TSS concentrations attains pre-existing conditions between **5** and **6** h after the cessation of the discharge based on the assumption that the ambient TSS value is equal to or more than **0.1** mg/l within the model domain.

Figure 6-13b: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 35.4 h (or 1 h after the cessation of release)

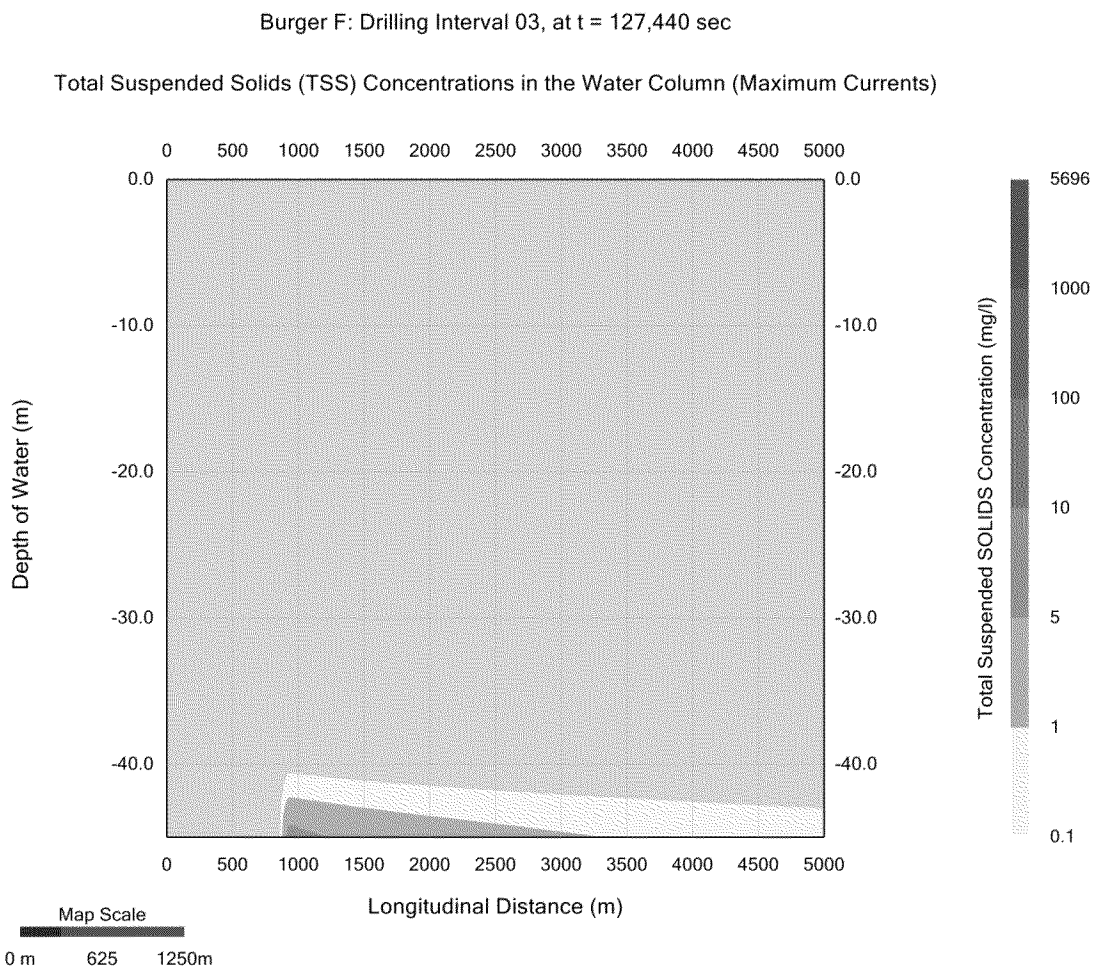


Figure 6-13c: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 36.4 h (or 2 h after the cessation of release)

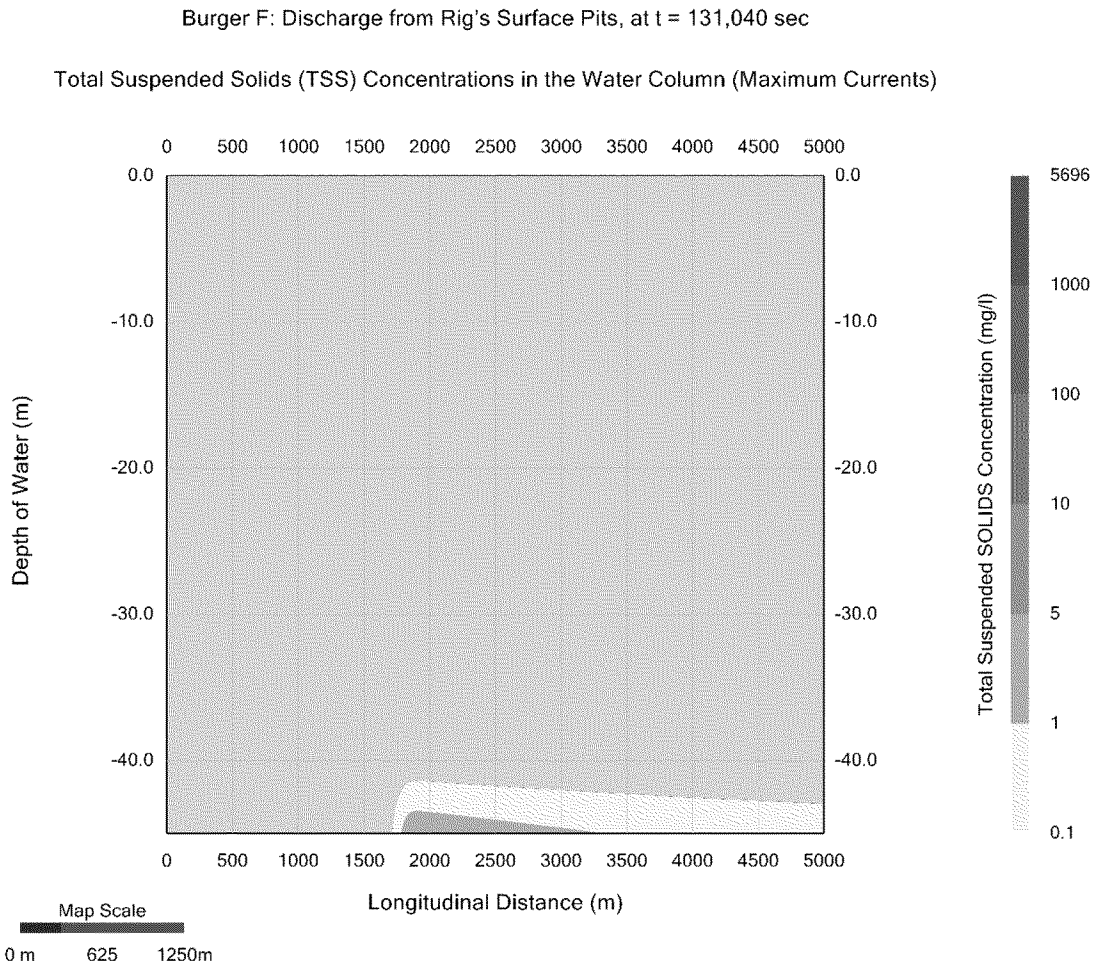


Figure 6-13d: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 37.4 h (or 3 h after the cessation of release)

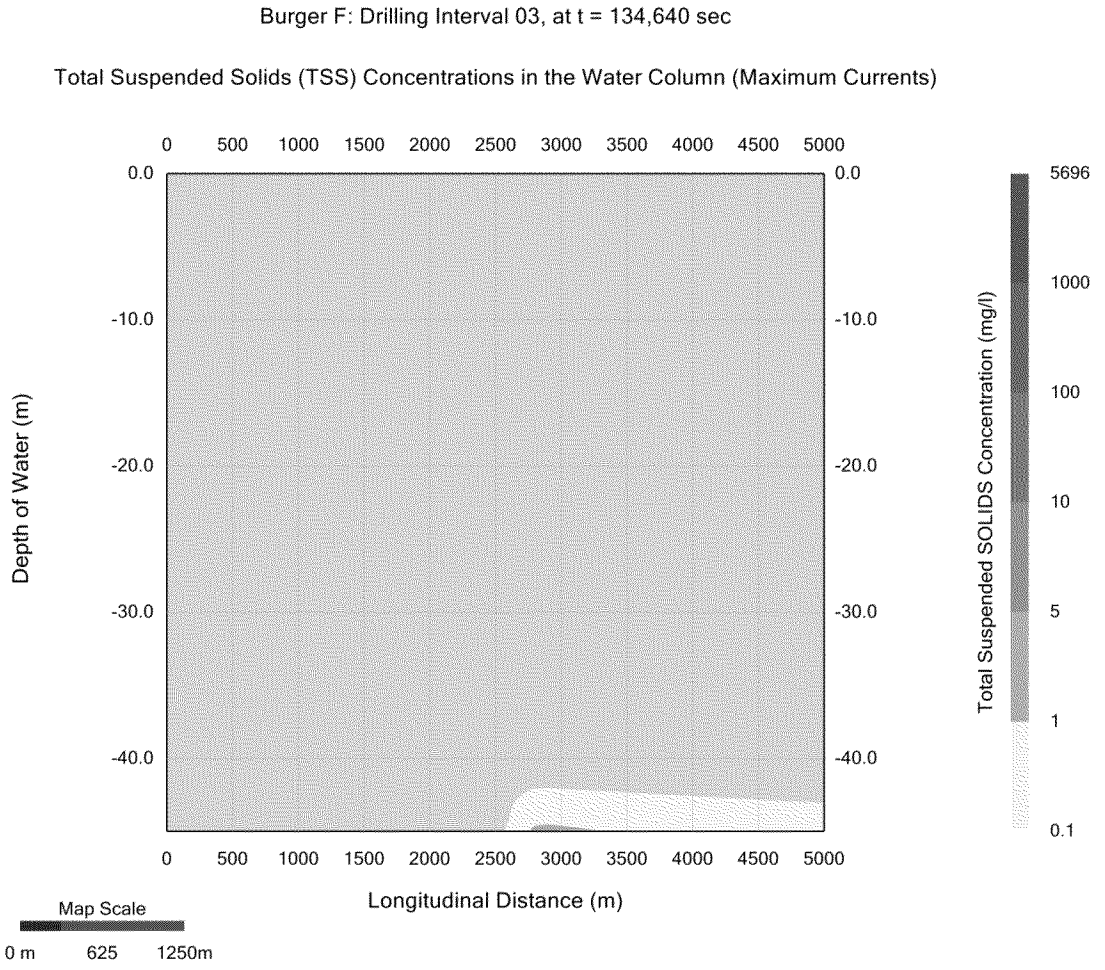


Figure 6-13e: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 38.4 h (or 4 h after the cessation of release)

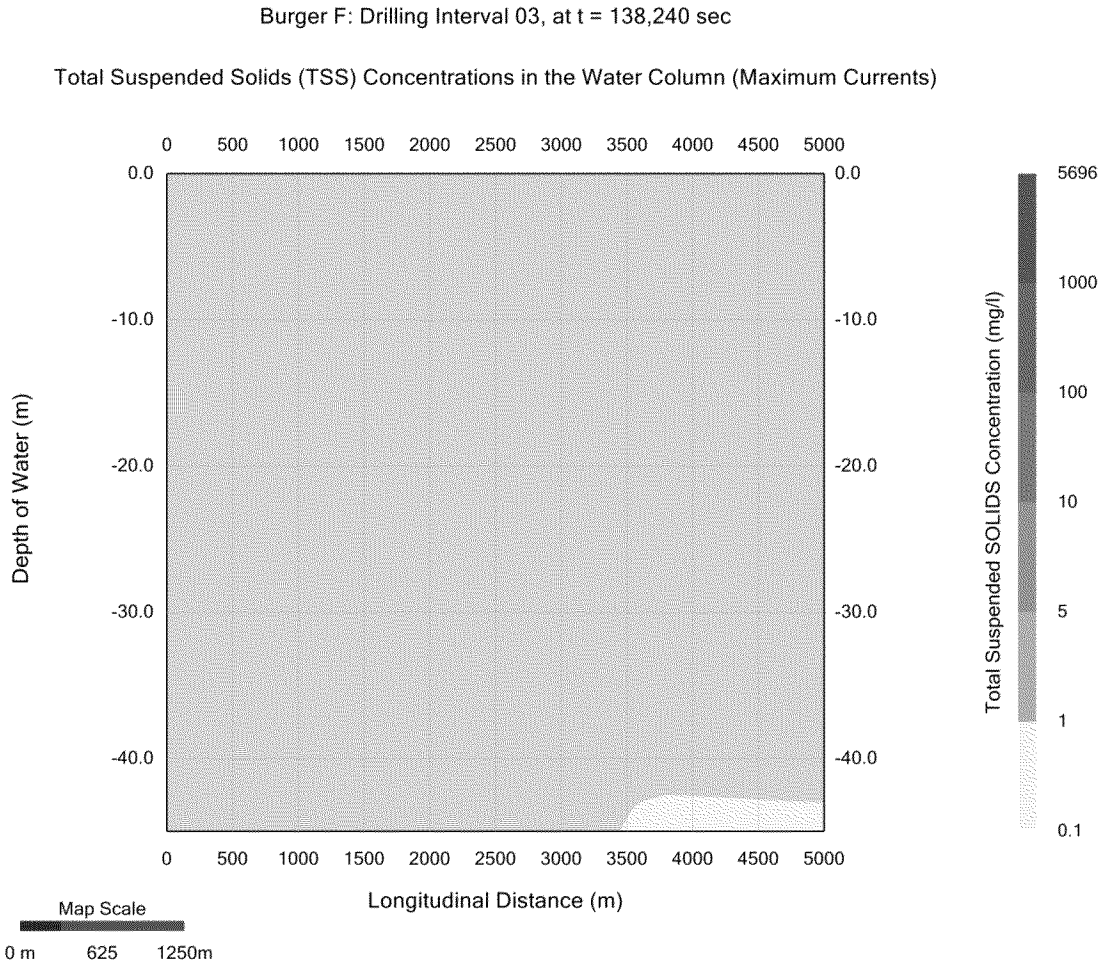


Figure 6-13f: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 39.4 h (or 5 h after the cessation of release)

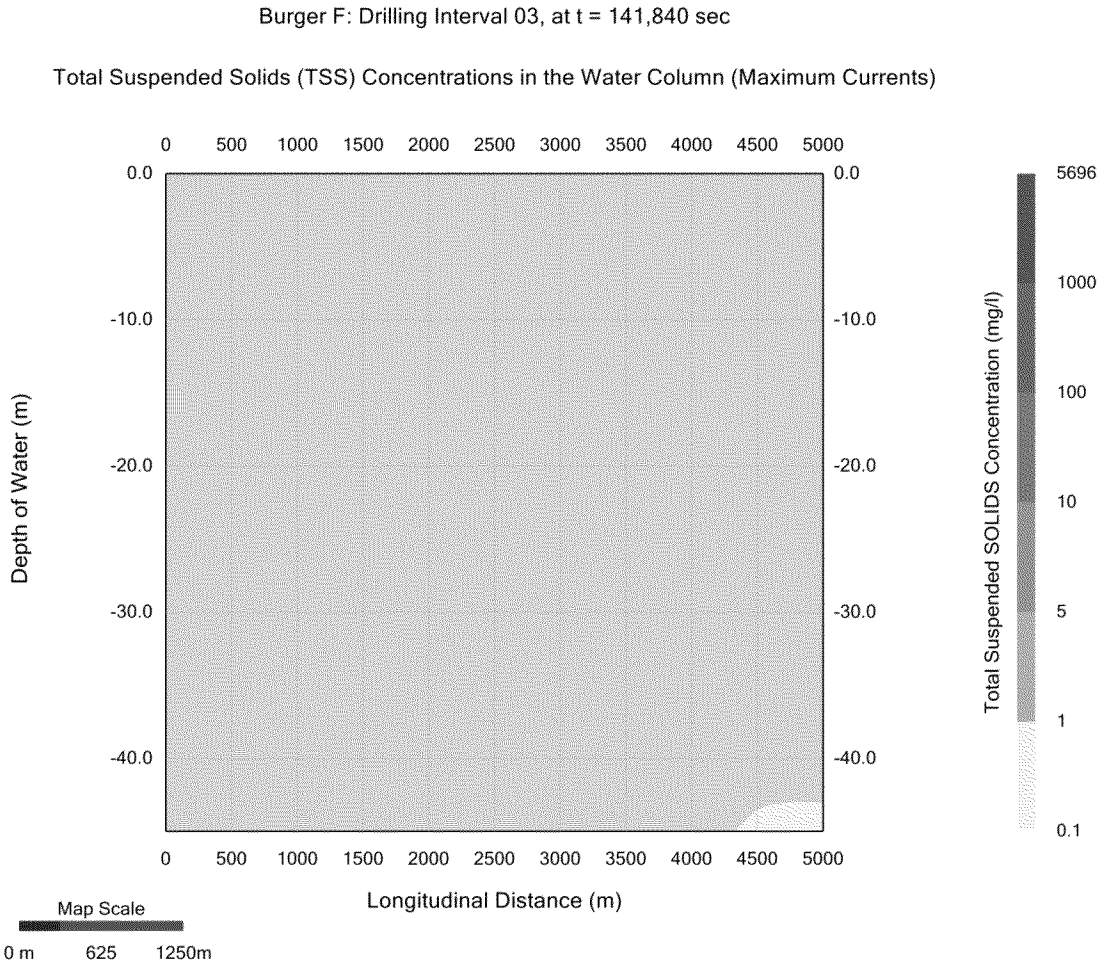
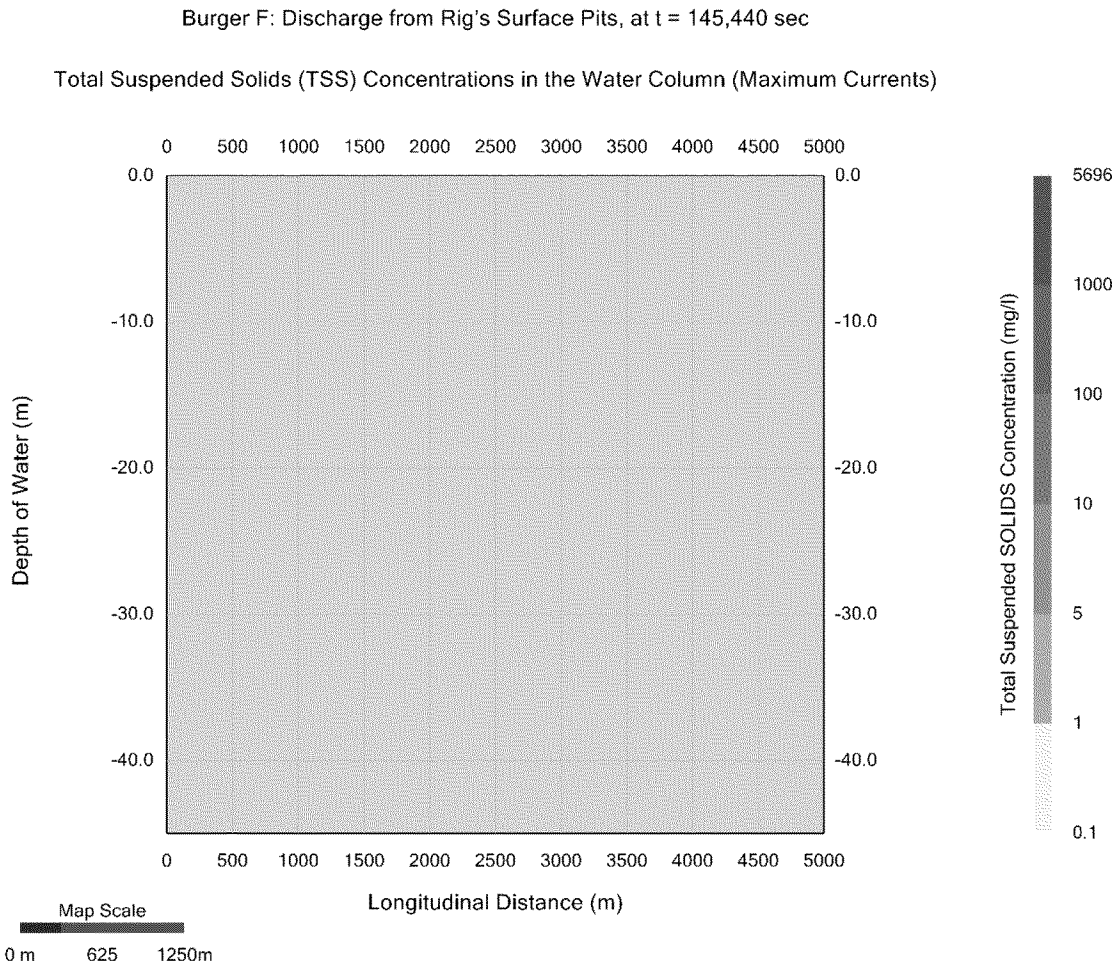


Figure 6-13g: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 40.4 h (or 6 h after the cessation of release)

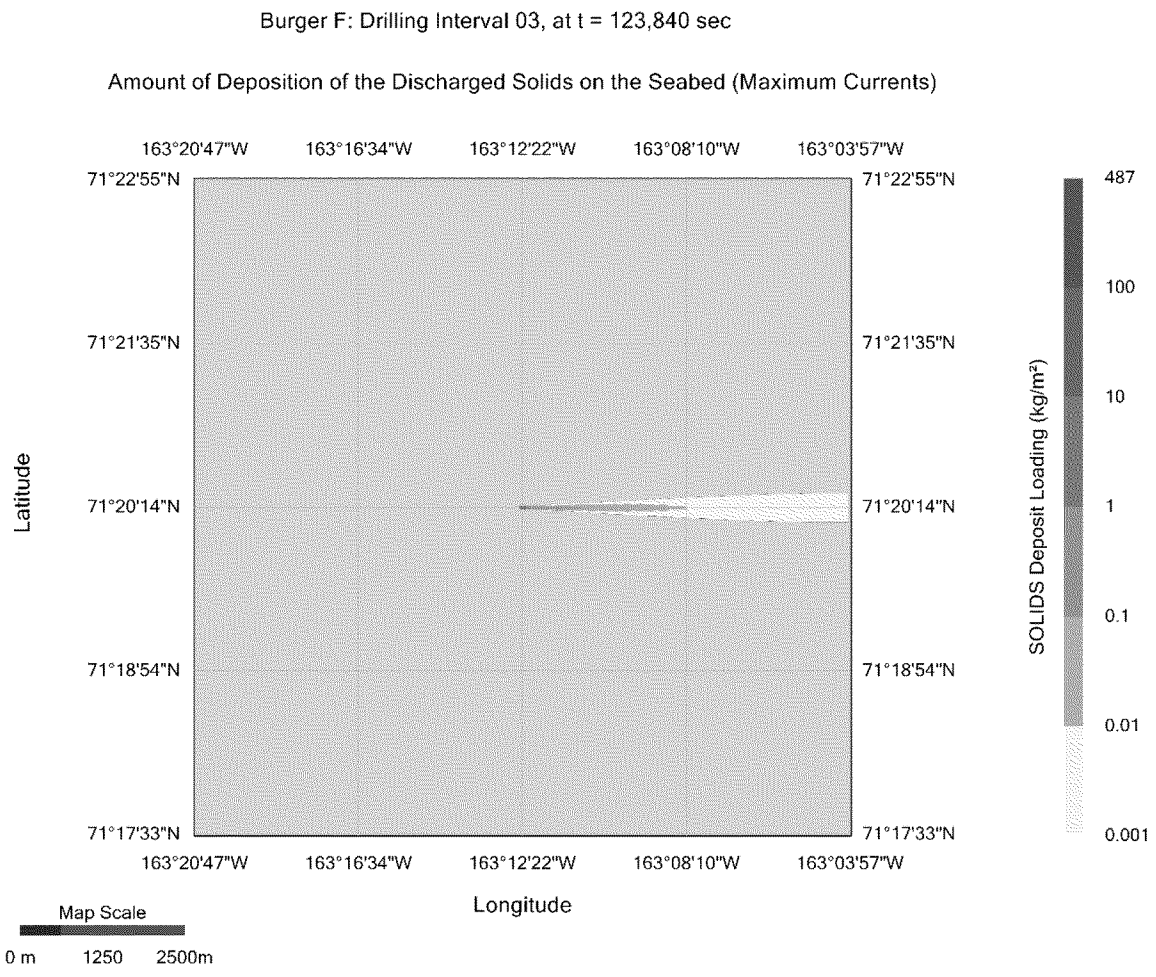


AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent and the amount of solids loading on the sea floor at time, t = **123,840** sec (or **34.4** hours) as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figure 6-14**. The model domain extends to **5.0**km in all directions from the discharge location as shown in Figure **6-14**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of this figure. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The maximum loading **487** kg/m^2 occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **10** kg/m^2 and **1** kg/m^2 at distances approximately **60** m and **125** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 approximately between **125** and **910** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **0.1** kg/m^2 to **0.01** kg/m^2 approximately between **910** and **2,520** m distances from the discharge location. The loading is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **2,520** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **100**-, **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.115**, **0.264**, **0.583**, **3.641**, and **20.974** ha, respectively.

Figure 6-14: Amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 03



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of solids thickness of **1** cm or larger deposited on the sea floor at time, t = **123,840** sec (or **34.4** hours) as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figures 6-15a** and **6-15b**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular colorband. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. The solids deposited on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger as shown by a small dot, occurs on a very small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **6-15**a. The same result is presented in Figure **6-15**b but shows only **240** m x **240** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation of **1** cm or larger on the seabed. The maximum deposit thickness of **36.8** cm occurs at **10** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **55** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **60** m x **40** m rectangle area (or **0.247** ha) as presented in Figure **6-15**b. The sea floor areas affected by deposit thickness larger than **10**- and **1**-cm are: **0.112** and **0.247** ha, respectively.

Figure 6-15a: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 03

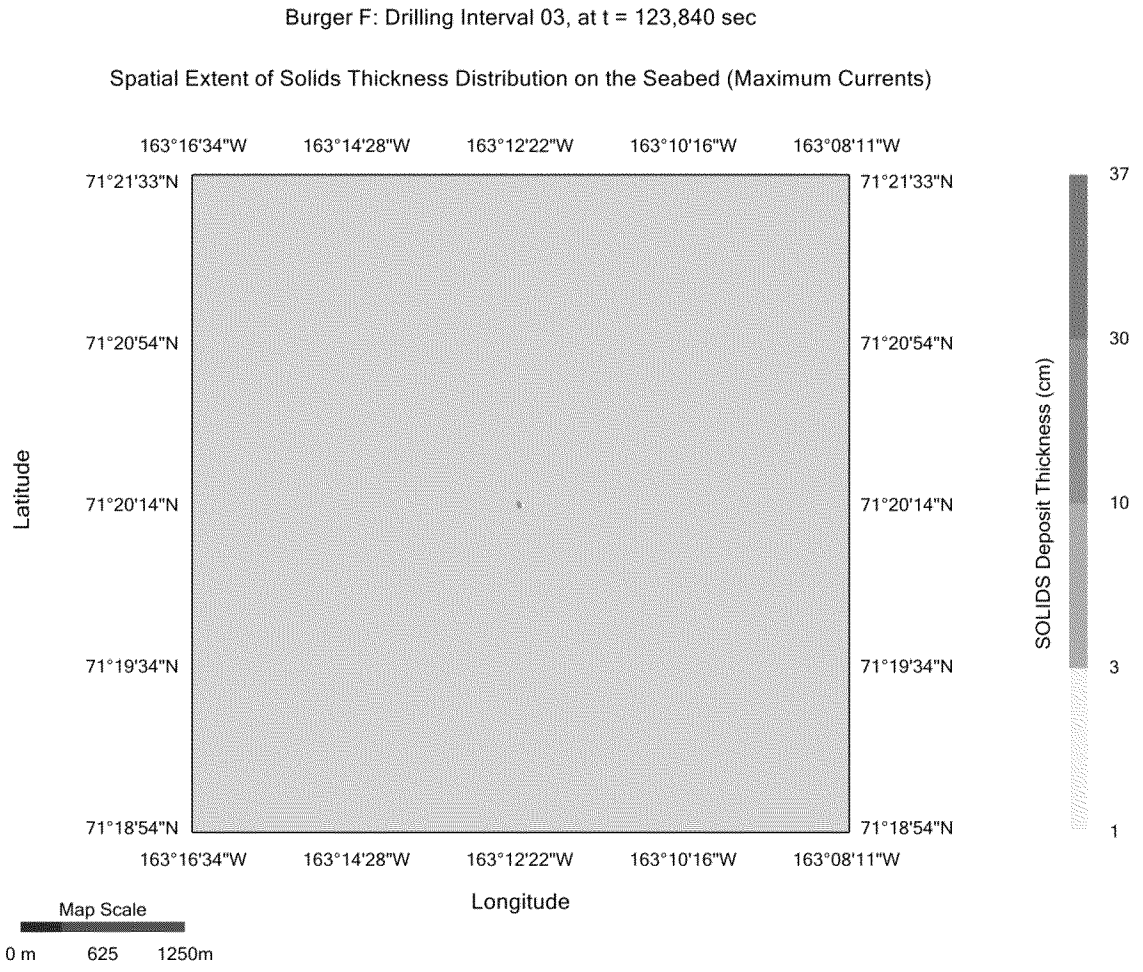
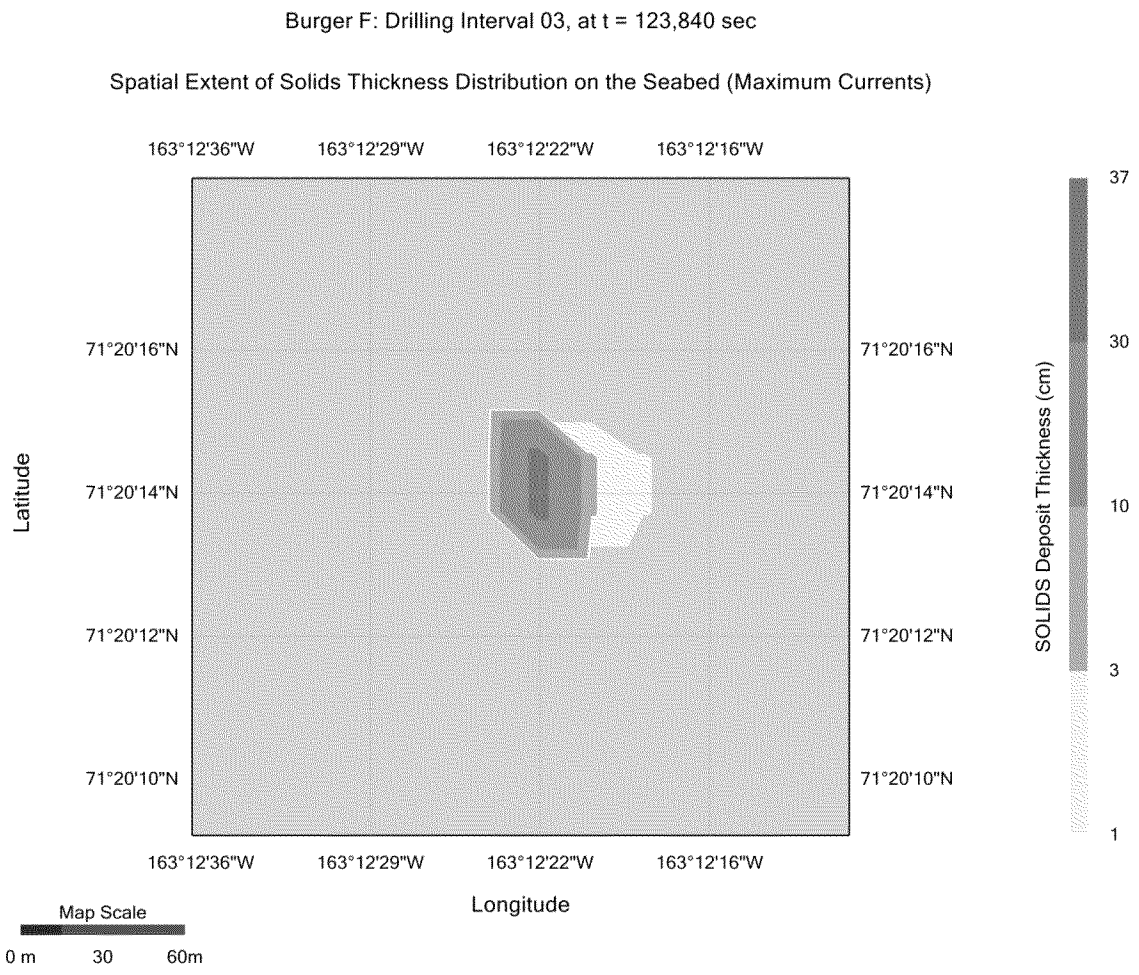


Figure 6-15b: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 03 (Zoom In View)



6.4 Model Results for Sea Surface Discharge Scenario – Drilling Interval 04

Trajectory and Shape of the Discharge Plume

The trajectory of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 6-16**. The depth of water is **45.0** m and the discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m below the sea surface. The heavier plume travels approximately **7.7** m from the discharge location before collapsing into the ambient sea water due to the higher density of the discharge plume. The shape and width of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 6-17**. The width of the plume is approximately **4.0** m at a distance **7.7** m from the discharge location. The solid lines present the outer boundaries and dotted line presents the center line of the discharge plume in Figures **6-16** and **6-17**.

Figure 6-16: Trajectory of the discharge plume at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 04

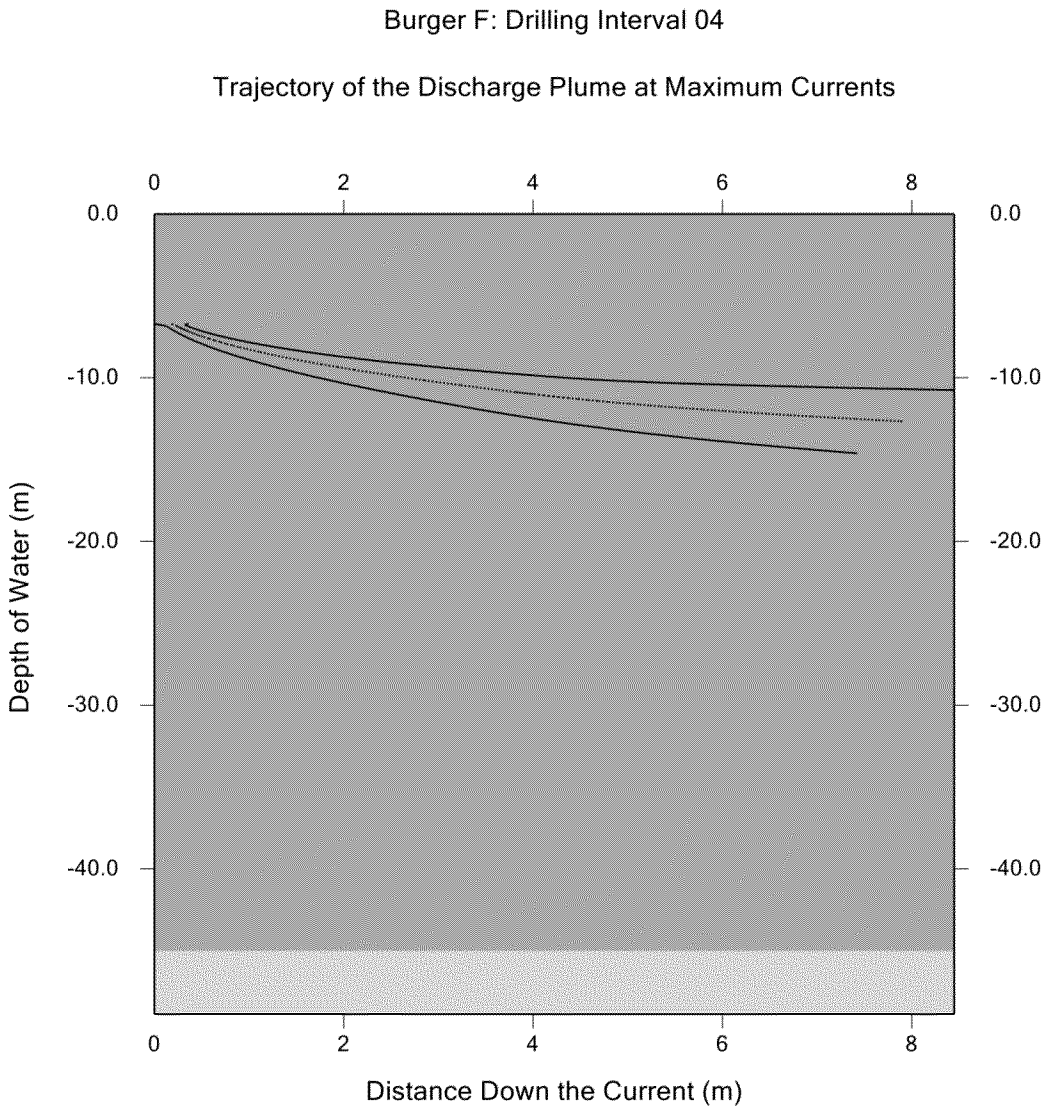
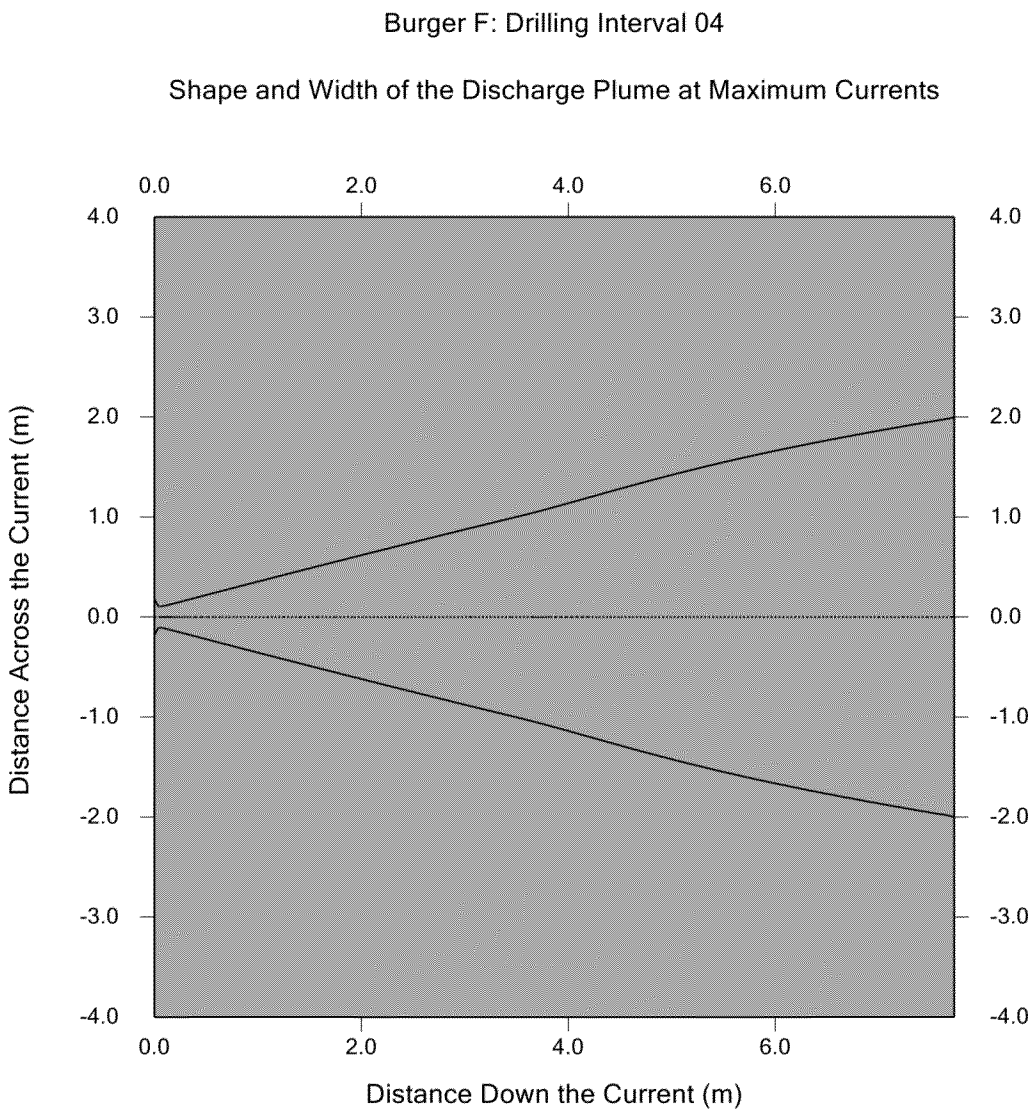


Figure 6-17: Shape and width of the discharge plume at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 04

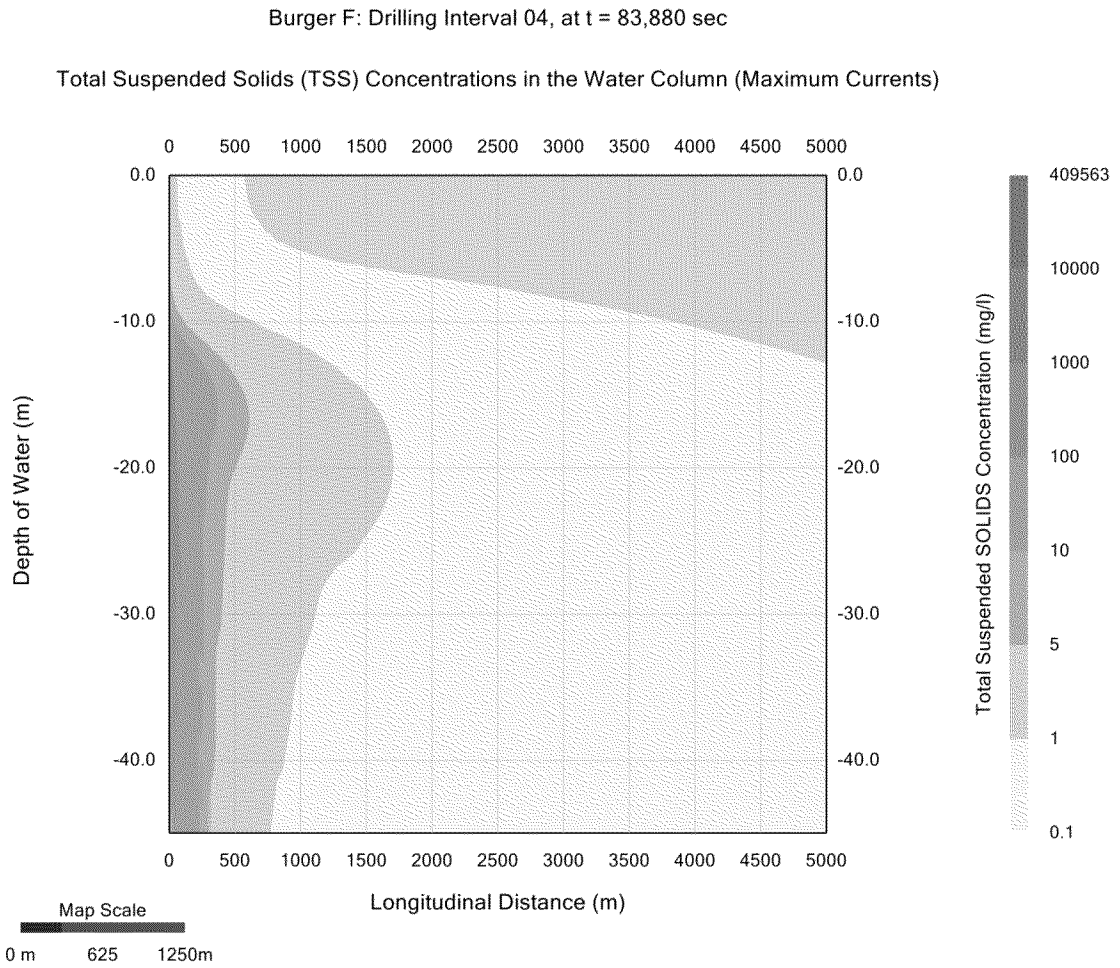


TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE WATER COLUMN

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column at time, t = **83,880** sec (or **23.3** hours) which is the discharge duration for this drilling interval is presented in **Figure 6-18a**. The depth of water is **45.0** m at the discharge location. The discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m from a **14.25** inches internal diameter discharge pipe. Figure **6-18**a presents the maximum TSS concentrations attained during the discharge. The color filled contours present the variations of the TSS concentrations both with respect to the depth from the sea surface and the distance from the source by different color bands. The maximum TSS concentration **409,563** mg/l occurs at the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **100** and **10** mg/l at distances approximately: **100** ad **370** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **10** to **5** mg/l between **370** and **610** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **5** to **1** mg/l between **610** and **1,700** m distances from the source. It is less than **1** mg/l beyond **1,700** m from the discharge location.

The maximum TSS concentrations at **10**-, **30**-, **100**-, **300**-, and **1000**-m from the discharge location are: **1,175.2**, **315.6**, **95.5**, **13.1**, and **2.3** mg/l, respectively.

Figure 6-18a: Total suspended solids concentrations in water column at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 04



FATE AND TRANSPORT OF THE TSS

The discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids ceases at time, t = **83,880** sec (or **23.3** hours). The fate and transport of the discharged solids at times **1**, **2**, **3**, **4, 5**, and **6** h after the cessation of the discharge are presented by **Figures 6-18**b**, 6-18**c**, 6-18**d**, 6-18**e**, 6-18**f**,** and **6-18**g. These figures show that the TSS concentrations within the **5.0** km model domain decrease to: **5** mg/l or less at **1** h, **1** mg/l or less at **2** h, **1** mg/l or less at **3** h, **1** mg/l or less at **4** h, **1** mg/l or less at **5** h, and less than **0.1** mg/l at **6** h after the cessation of the discharge. Therefore, it can be described that the ambient TSS concentrations attains pre-existing conditions between **5** and **6** h after the cessation of the discharge based on the assumption that the ambient TSS value is equal to or more than **0.1** mg/l within the model domain.

Figure 6-18b: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 24.3 h (or 1 h after the cessation of release)

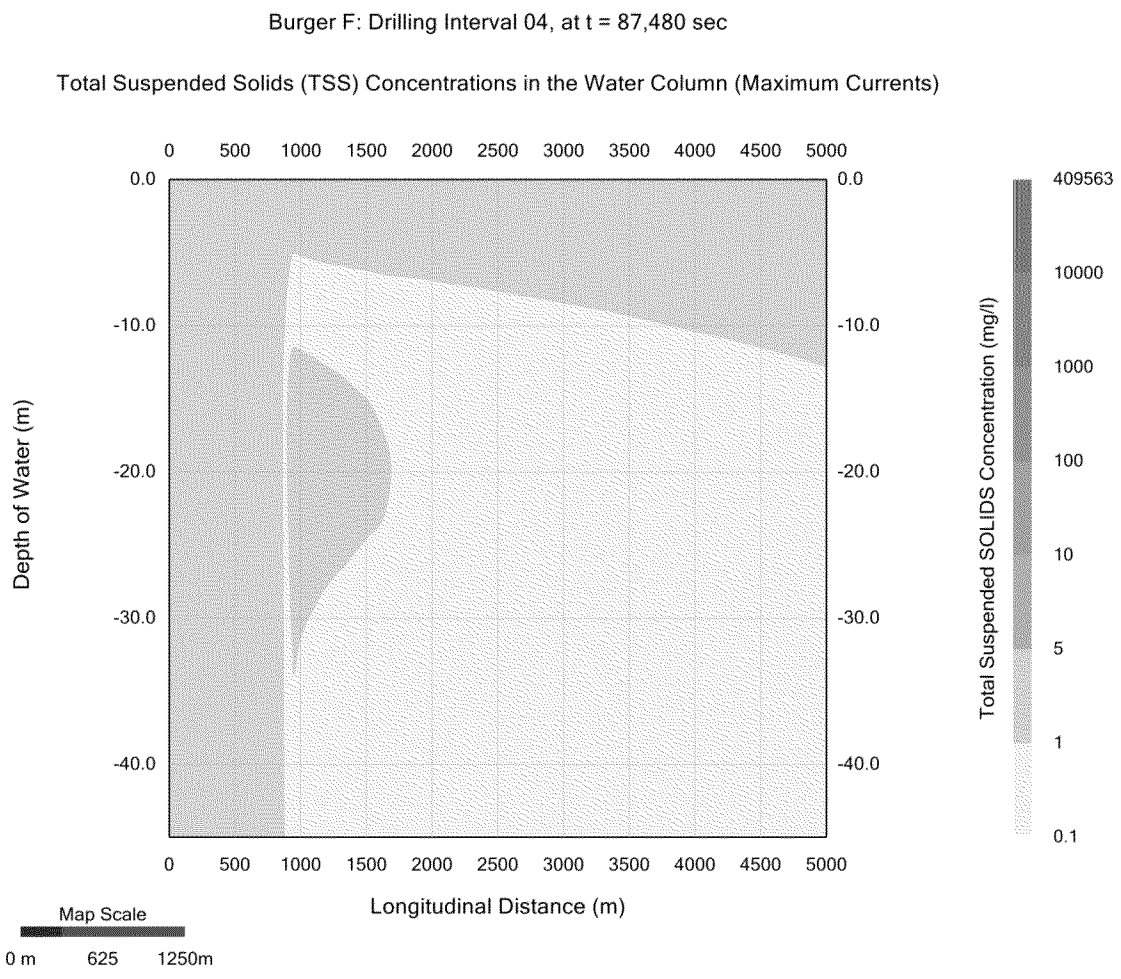


Figure 6-18c: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 25.3 h (or 2 h after the cessation of release)

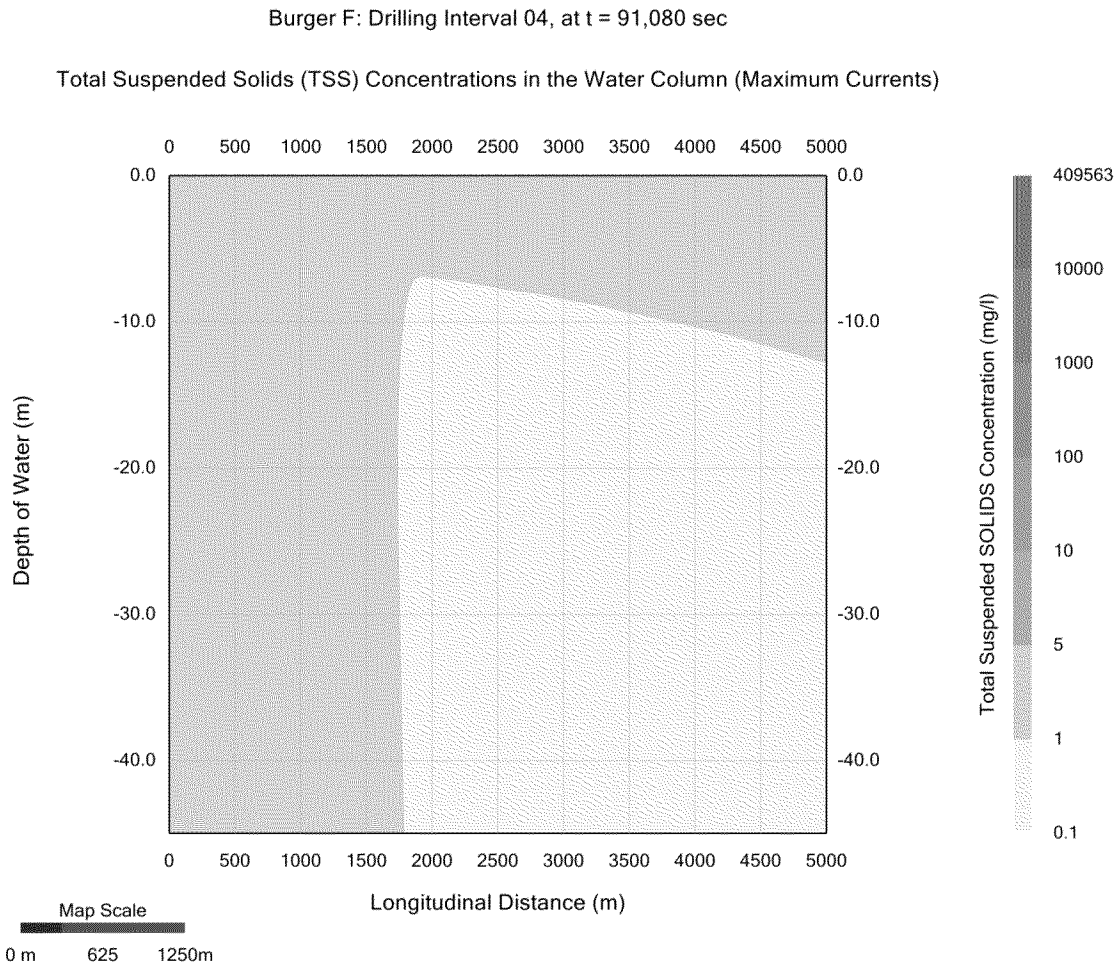


Figure 6-18d: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 26.3 h (or 3 h after the cessation of release)

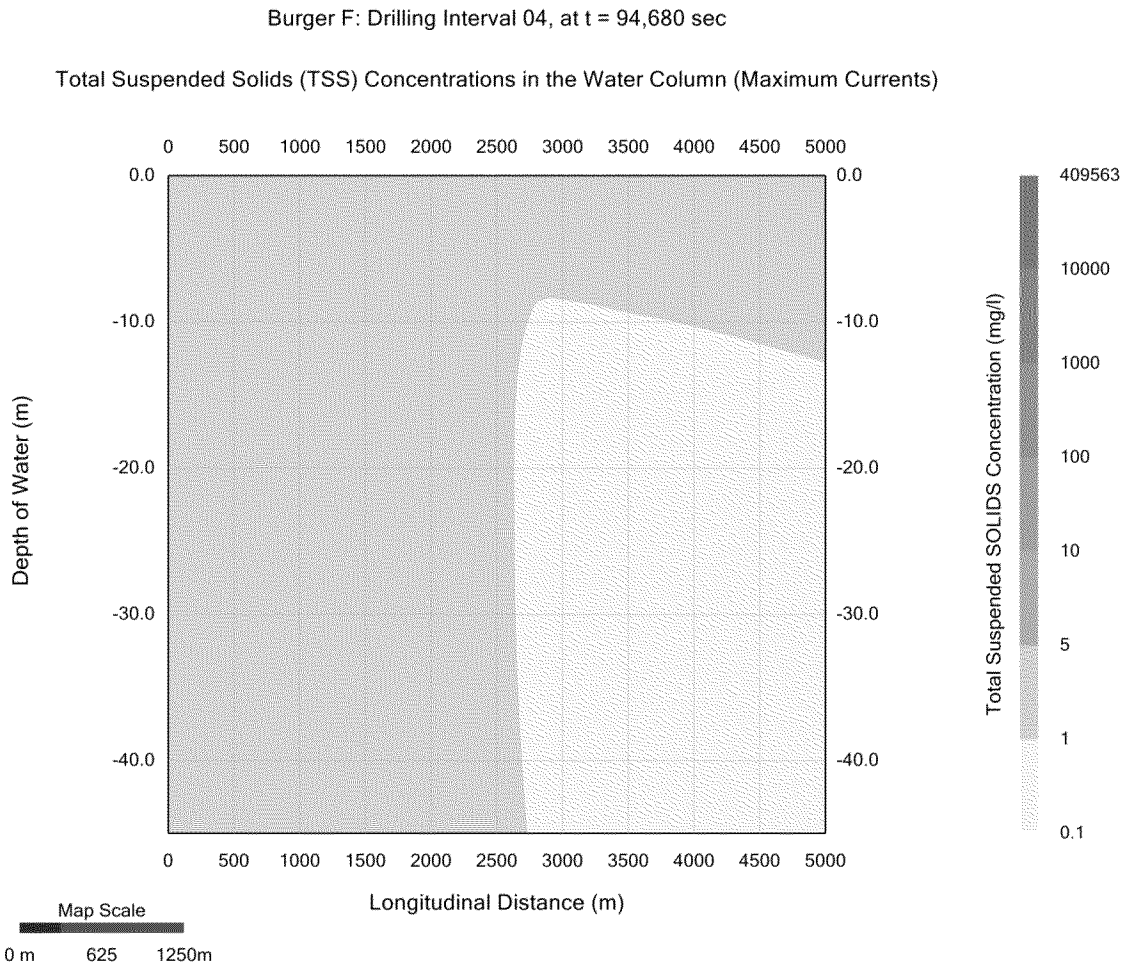


Figure 6-18e: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 27.3 h (or 4 h after the cessation of release)

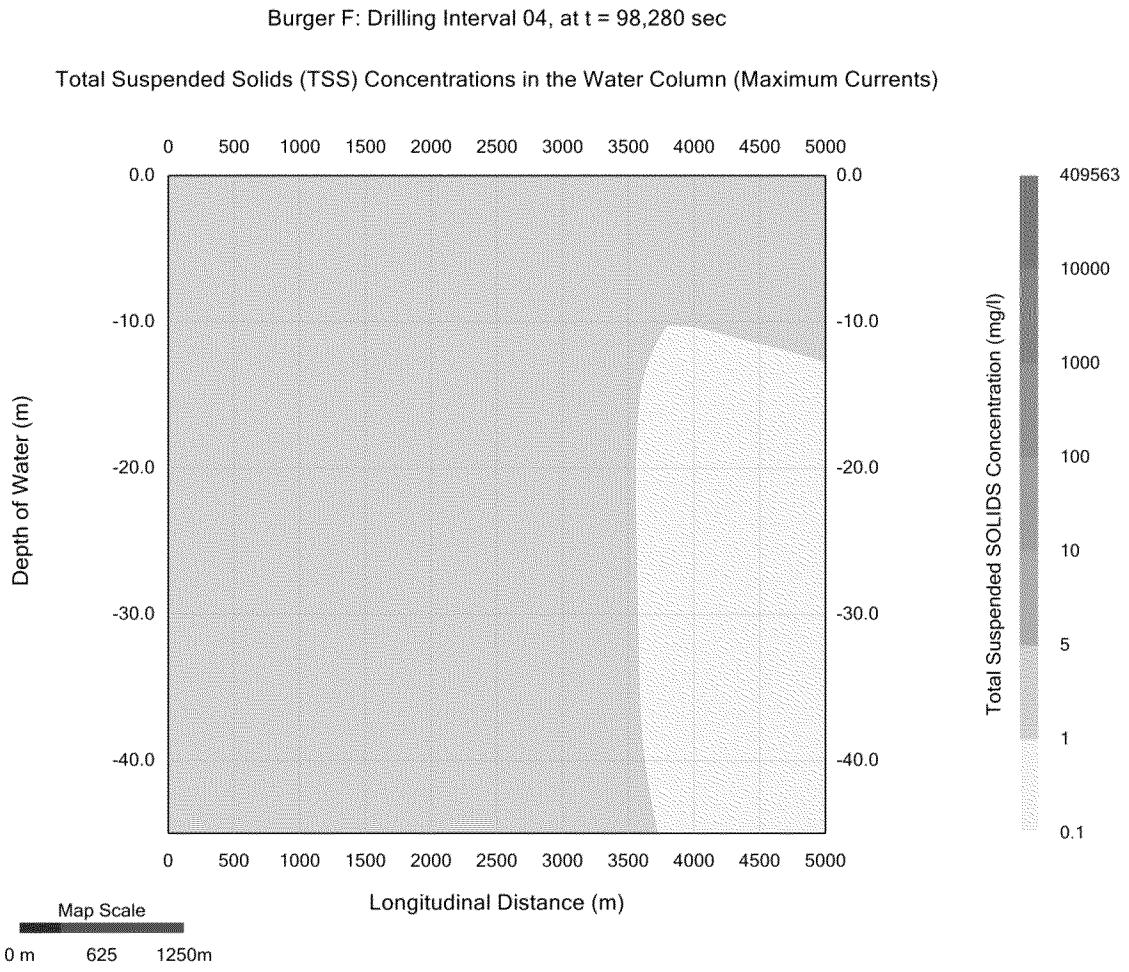


Figure 6-18f: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 28.3 h (or 5 h after the cessation of release)

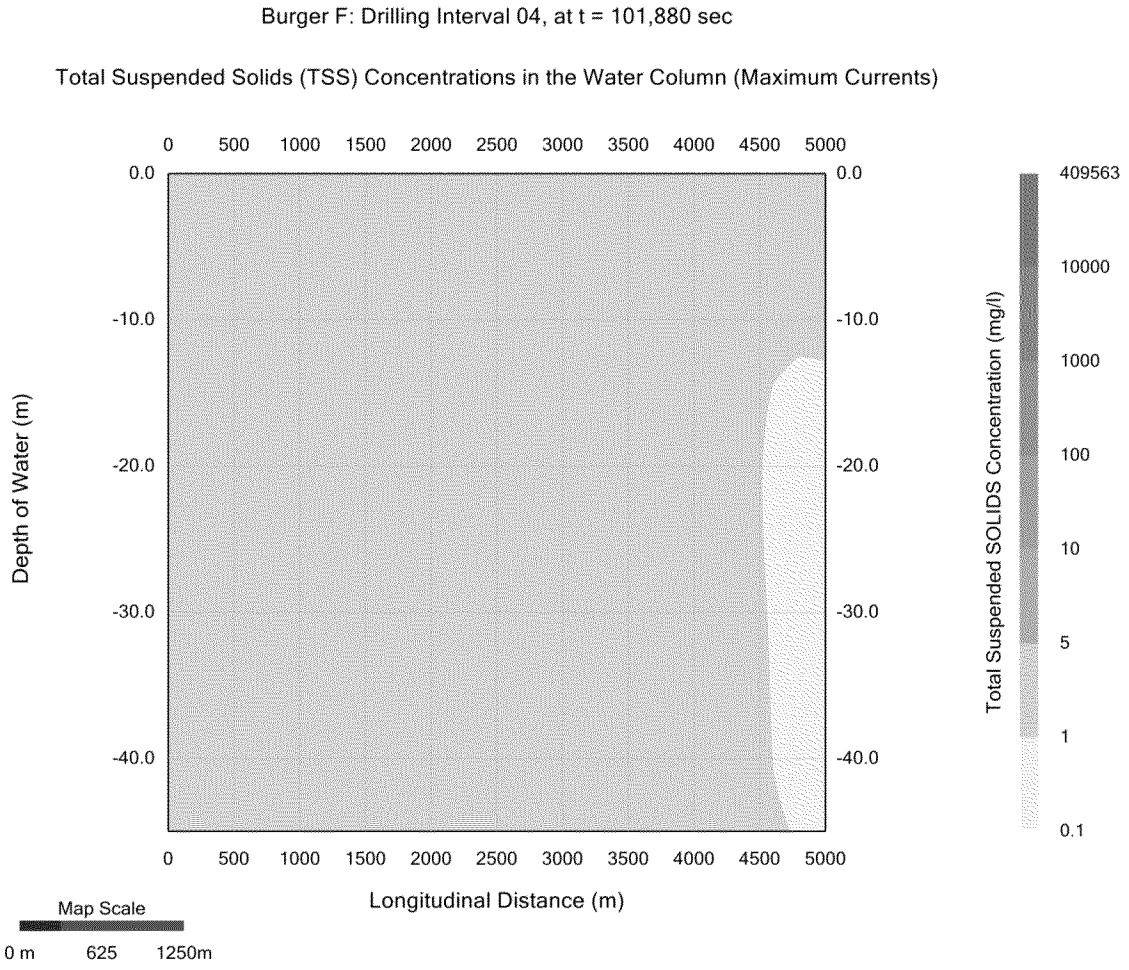
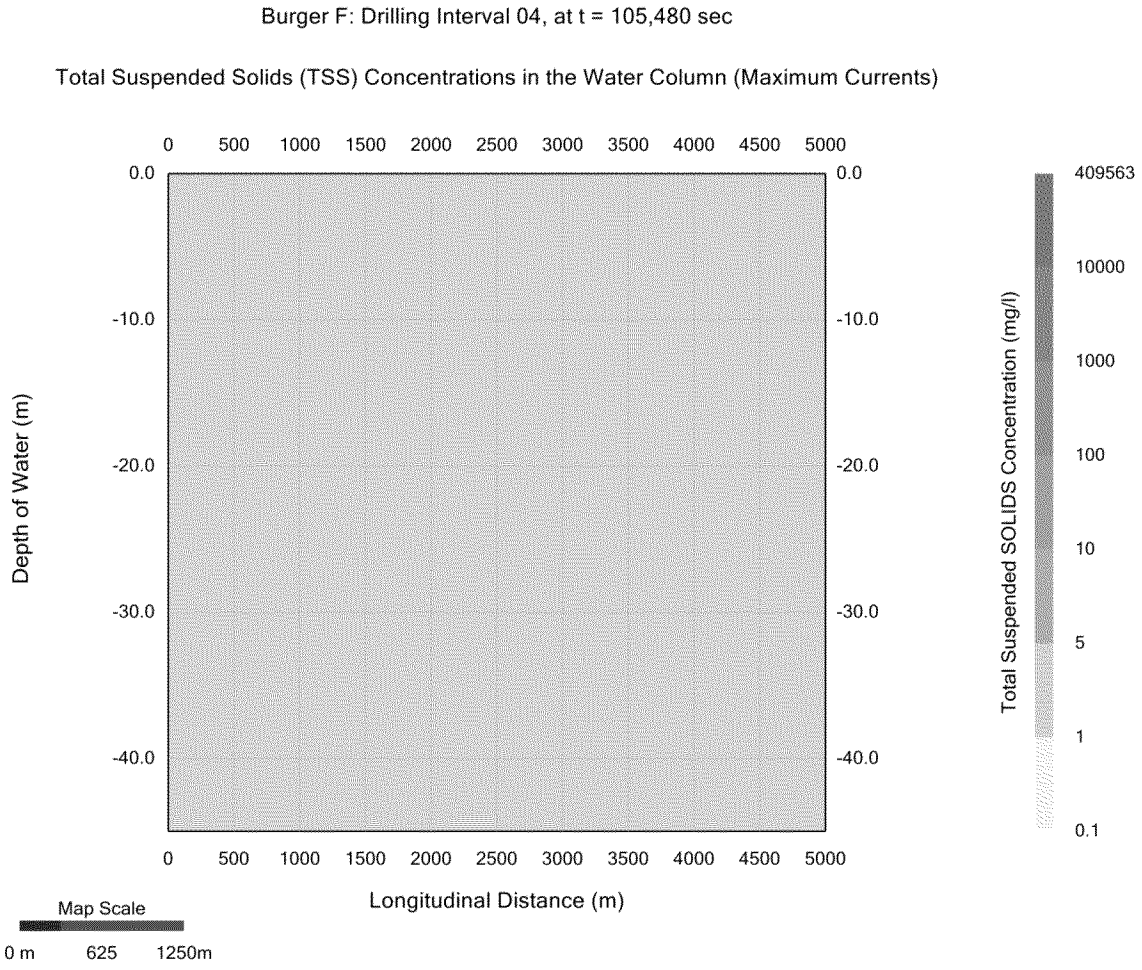


Figure 6-18g: TSS concentrations during the mean currents at 29.3 h (or 6 h after the cessation of release)

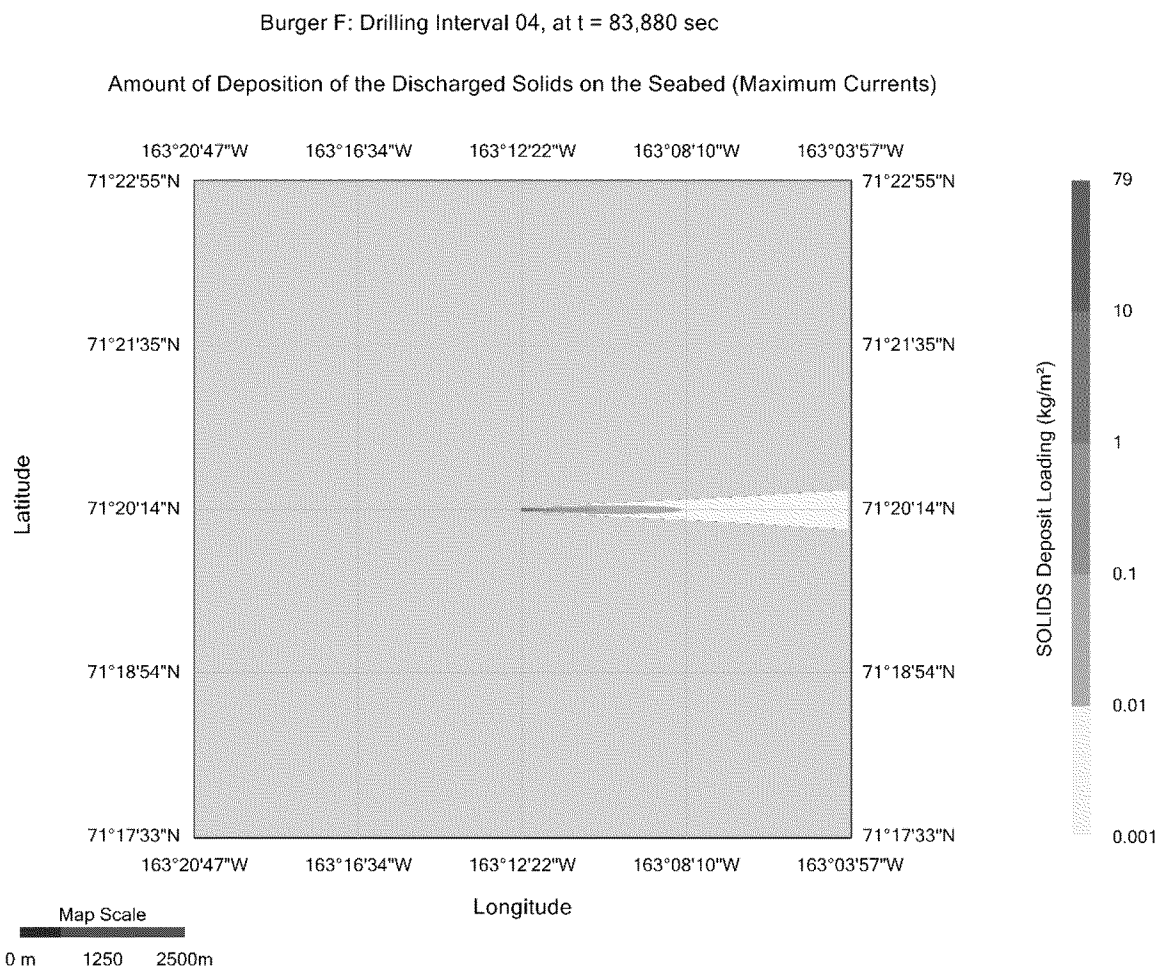


AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent and the amount of solids loading on the sea floor at time, t = **83,880** sec (or **23.3** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figure 6-19.** The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as shown in Figure **6-19**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of this figure. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The maximum loading **78** kg/m^2 occurs at **50** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **10** kg/m^2 and **1** kg/m^2 at distances approximately **190** m and **480** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 approximately between **480** and **1,150** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 approximately between **1,150** and **2,480** m distances from the discharge location. The loading is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **2,480** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.667**, **1.933**, **4.621**, and **23.100** ha, respectively.

Figure 6-19: Amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 04



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of solids thickness of **1** cm or larger deposited on the sea floor at time, t = **83,880** sec (or **23.3** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figures 6-20a** and **6-20b**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular colorband. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. The solids deposited on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger as shown by a small dot, occurs on a very small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **6-20**a. The same result is presented in Figure **6-20**b but shows only **480** m x **480** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation of **1** cm or larger on the seabed. The maximum deposit thickness of **5.4** cm occurs at **50** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **155** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **140** m x **40** m rectangle area (or **0.565** ha) as presented in Figure **6-20**b.

Figure 6-20a: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 04

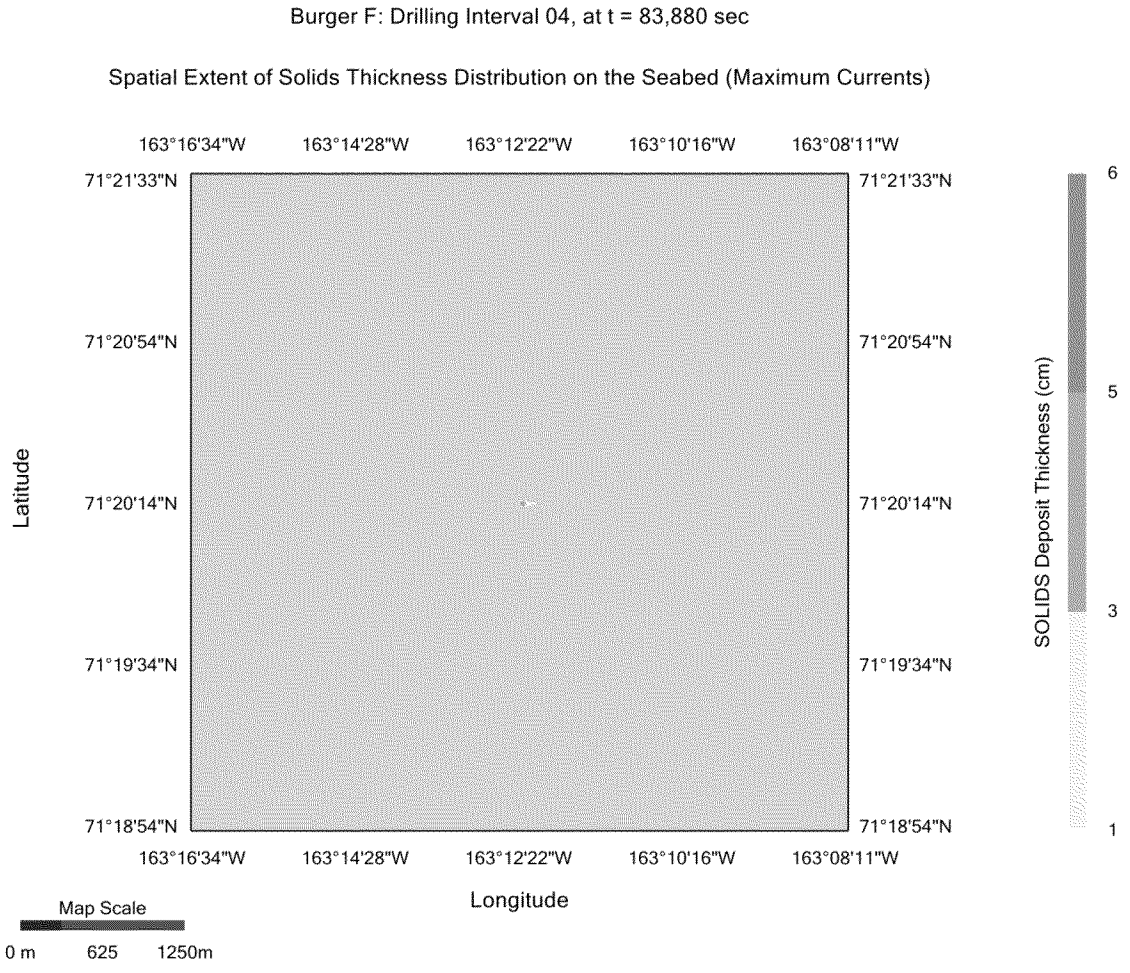
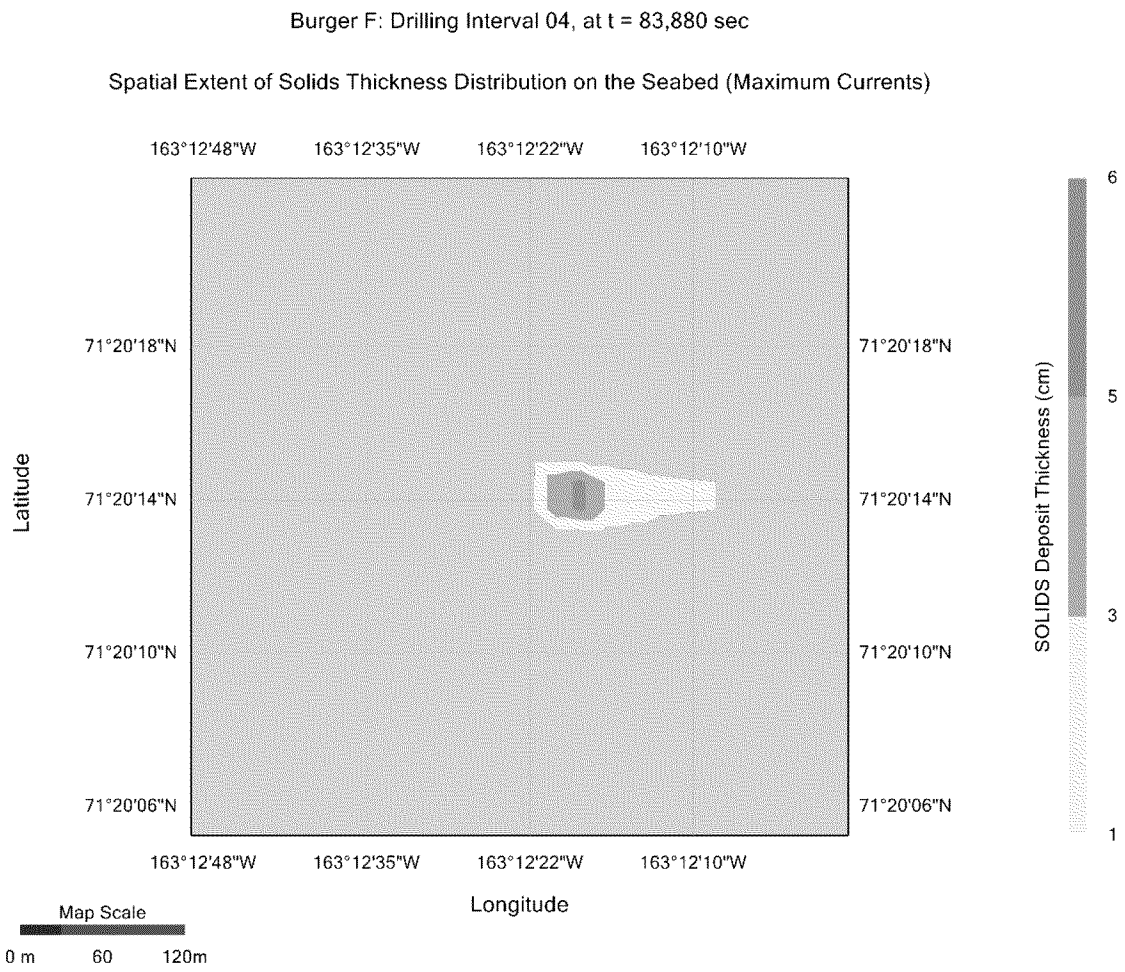


Figure 6-20b: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 04 (Zoom In View)



6.5 Model Results for Sea Surface Discharge Scenario – Drilling Interval 05

Trajectory and Shape of the Discharge Plume

The trajectory of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 6-21**. The depth of water is **45.0** m and the discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m below the sea surface. The heavier plume travels approximately **6.5** m from the discharge location before collapsing into the ambient sea water due to the higher density of the discharge plume. The shape and width of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 6-22**. The width of the plume is approximately **3.25** m at a distance **6.5** m from the discharge location. The solid lines present the outer boundaries and dotted line presents the center line of the discharge plume in Figures **6-21** and **6-22**.

Figure 6-21: Trajectory of the discharge plume at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 05

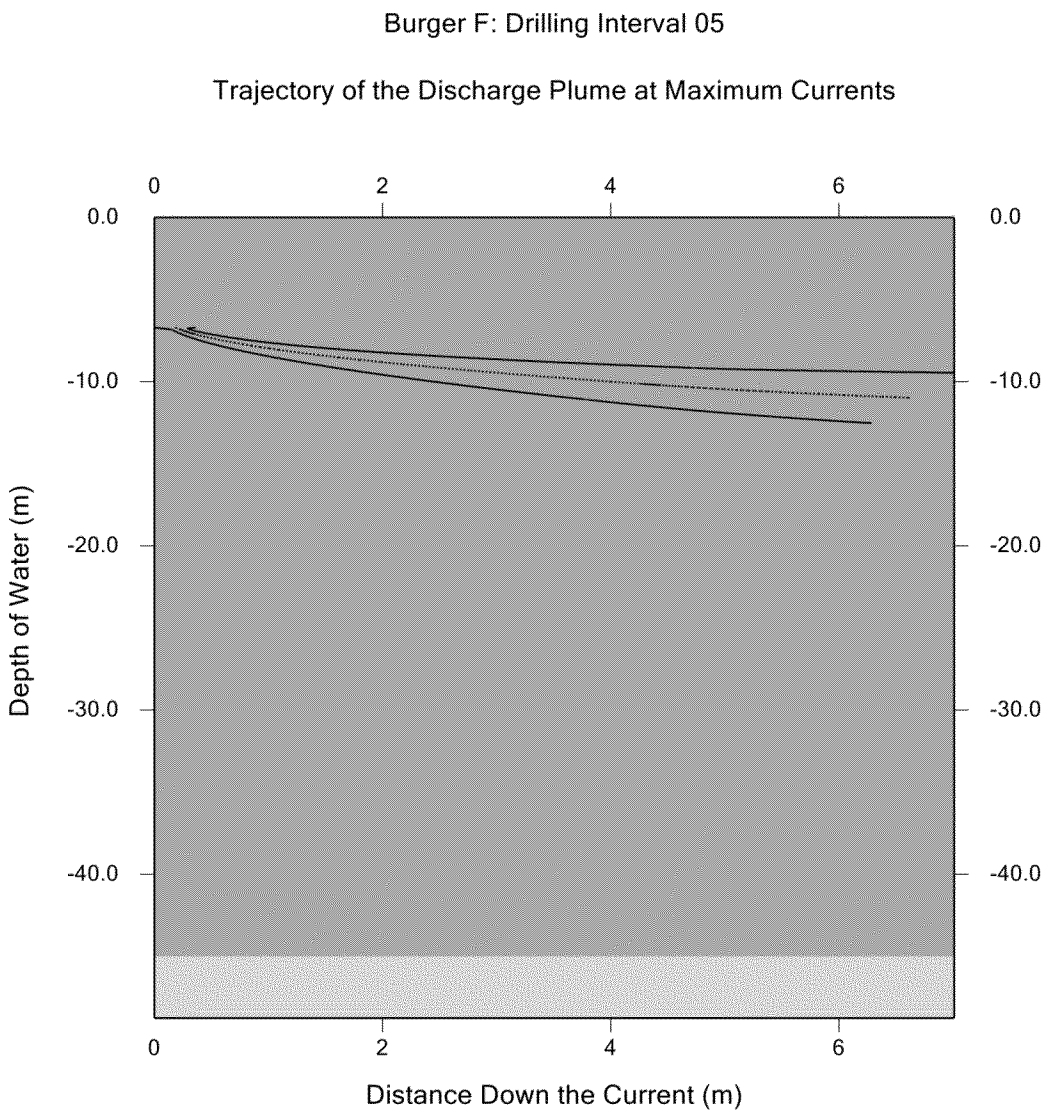
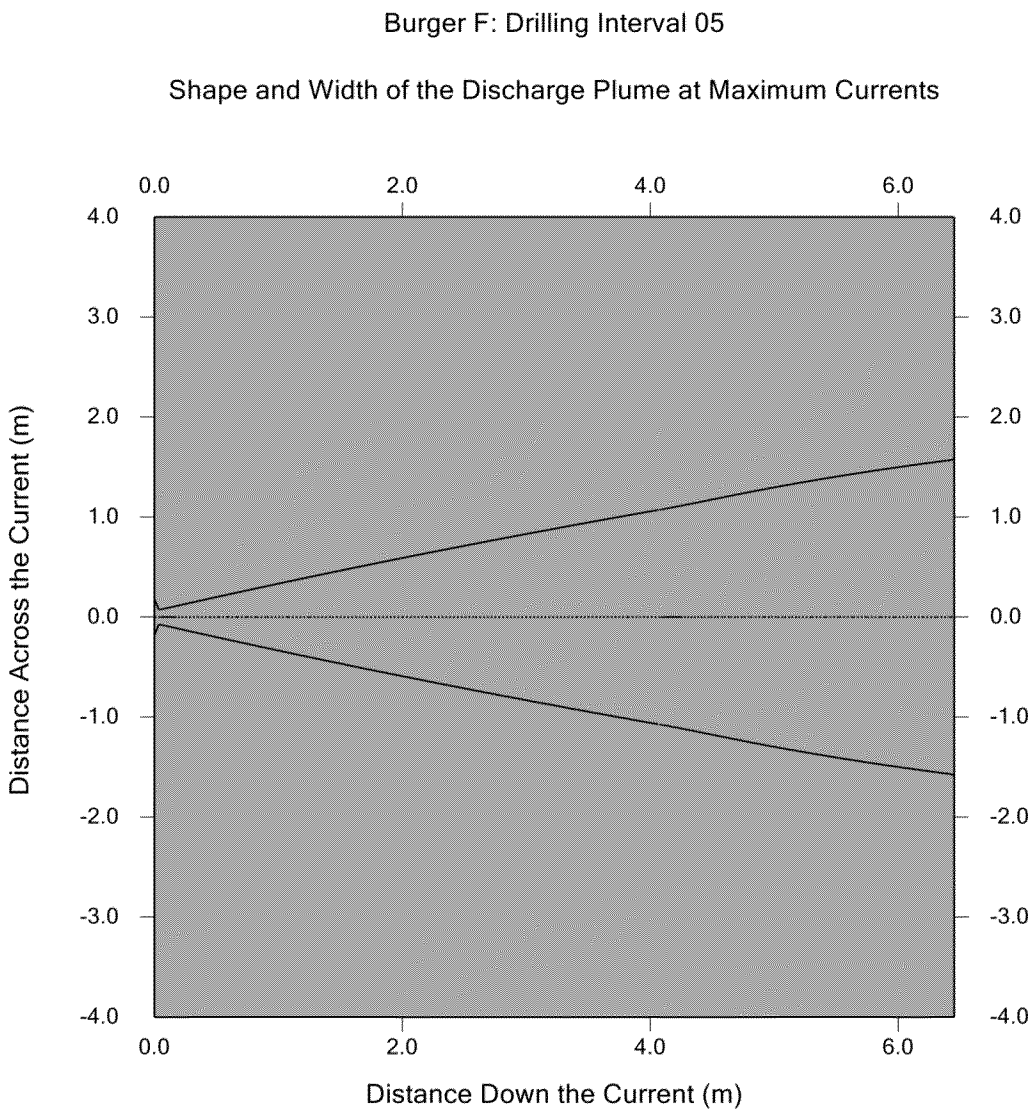


Figure 6-22: Shape and width of the discharge plume at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 05

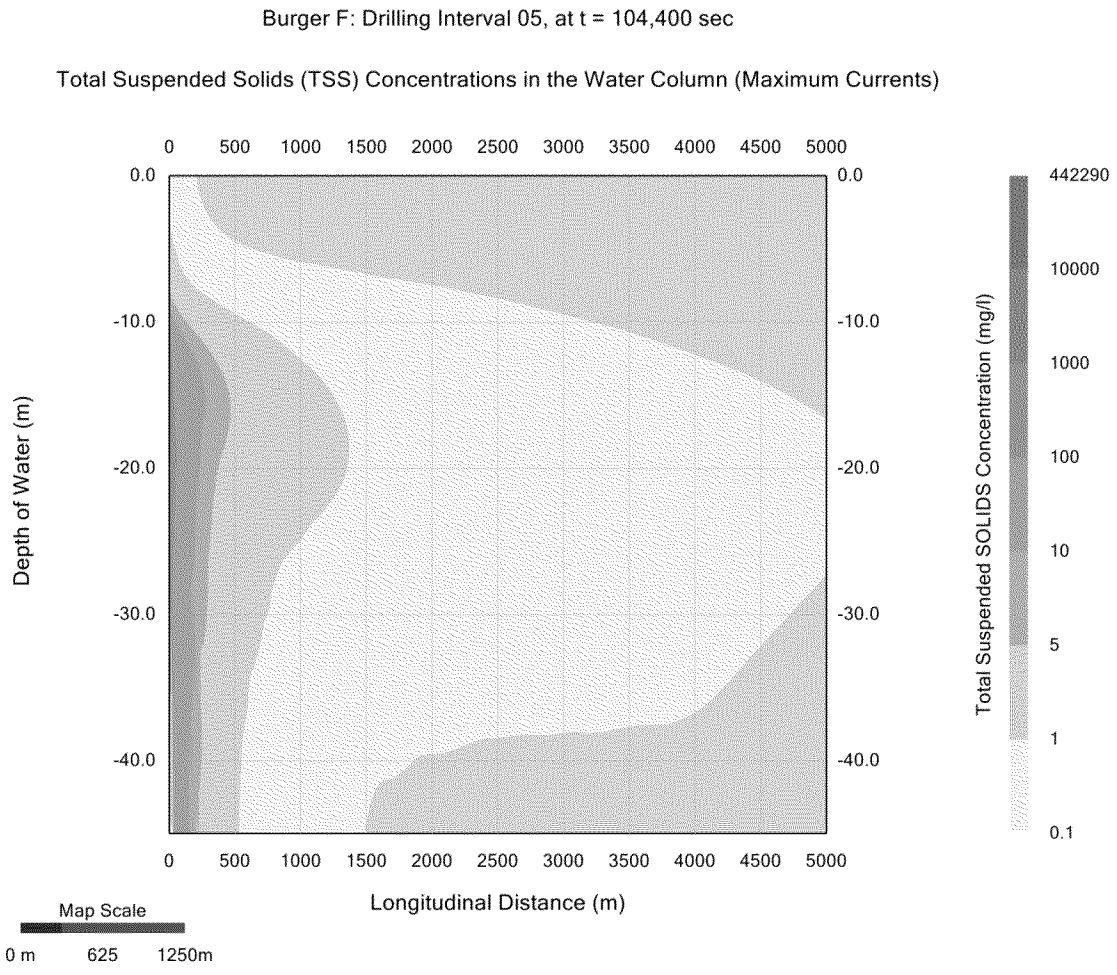


TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE WATER COLUMN

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column at time, t = **104**,**400** sec (or **29.0** hours) which is the discharge duration for this drilling interval is presented in **Figure 6-23a**. The depth of water is **45.0** m at the discharge location. The discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m from a **14.25** inches internal diameter discharge pipe. Figure **6-23**a presents the maximum TSS concentrations attained during the discharge. The color filled contours present the variations of the TSS concentrations both with respect to the depth from the sea surface and the distance from the source by different color bands. The maximum TSS concentration **442,290** mg/l occurs at the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **100** and **10** mg/l at distances approximately: **50** and **280** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **10** to **5** mg/l between **280** and **475** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **5** to **1** mg/l between **475** and **1**,**370** m distances from the source. It is less than **1** mg/l beyond **1**,**370** m from the discharge location.

The maximum TSS concentrations at **10**-, **30**-, **100**-, **300**-, and **1000**-m from the discharge location are: **721.0**, **119.1**, **38.4**, **8.8**, and **1.6** mg/l, respectively.

Figure 6-23a: Total suspended solids concentrations in water column at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 05



FATE AND TRANSPORT OF THE TSS

The discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids ceases at time, t = **104**,**400** sec (or **29.0** hours). The fate and transport of the discharged solids at times **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **5**, and **6** h after the cessation of the discharge are presented by **Figures 6-23**b**, 6-23**c**, 6-23**d**, 6-23**e**, 6-23**f**,** and **6-23**g. These figures show that the TSS concentrations within the **5.0** km model domain decrease to: **5** mg/l or less at **1** h, **1** mg/l or less at **2** h, **1** mg/l or less at **3** h, **1** mg/l or less at **4** h, **1** mg/l or less at **5** h, and less than **0.1** mg/l at **6** h after the cessation of the discharge. Therefore, it can be described that the ambient TSS concentrations attains pre-existing conditions between **5** and **6** h after the cessation of the discharge based on the assumption that the ambient TSS valueis equal to or more than **0.1** mg/l within the model domain.

Figure 6-23b: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 30 h (or 1 h after the cessation of release)

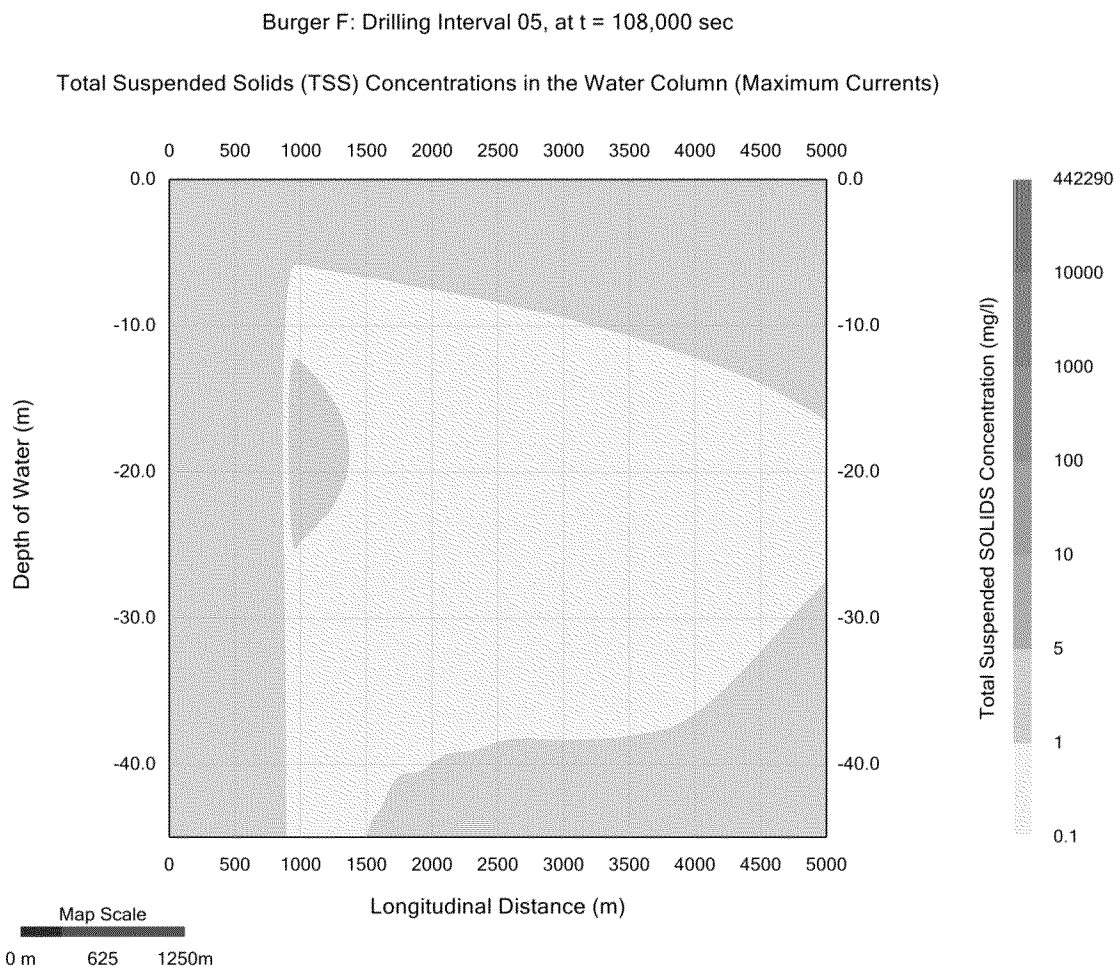


Figure 6-23c: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 31 h (or 2 h after the cessation of release)

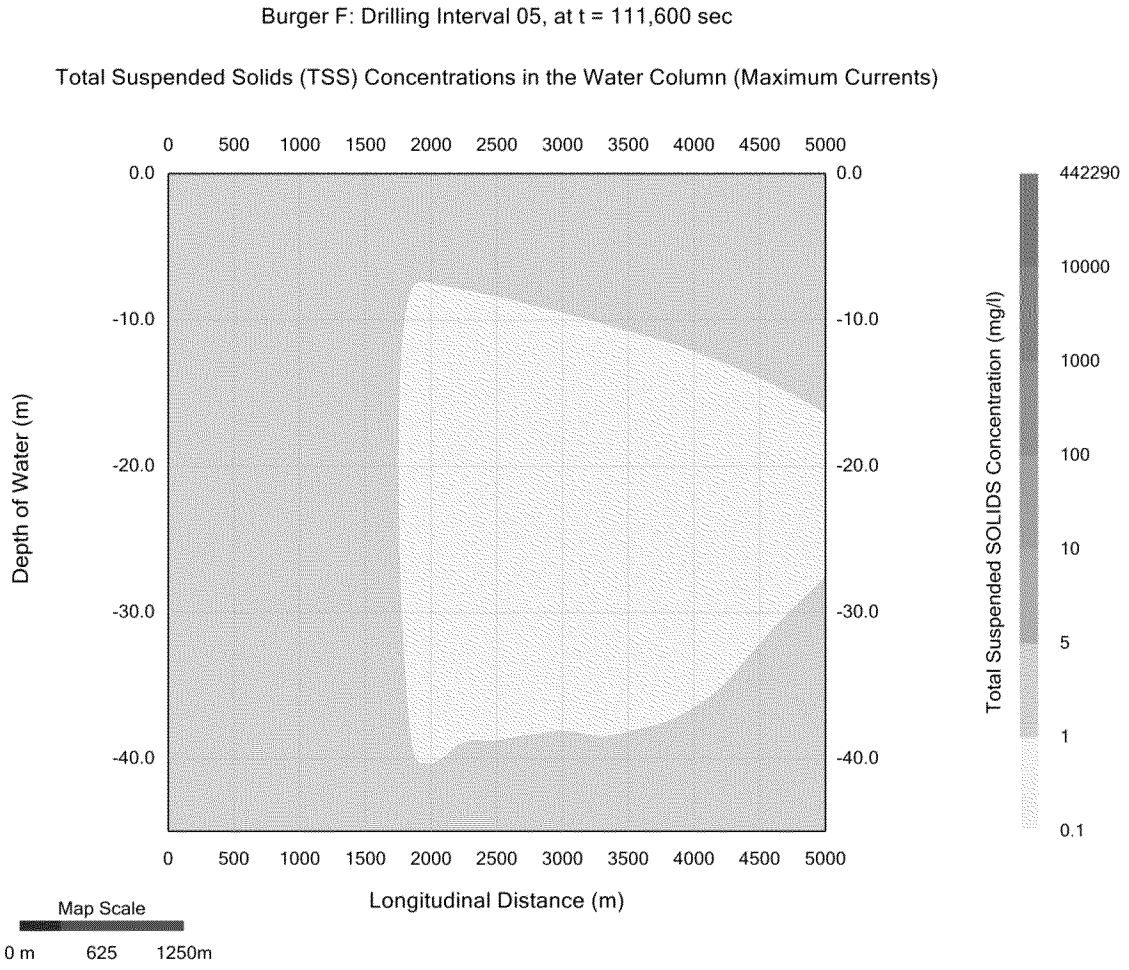


Figure 6-23d: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 32 h (or 3 h after the cessation of release)

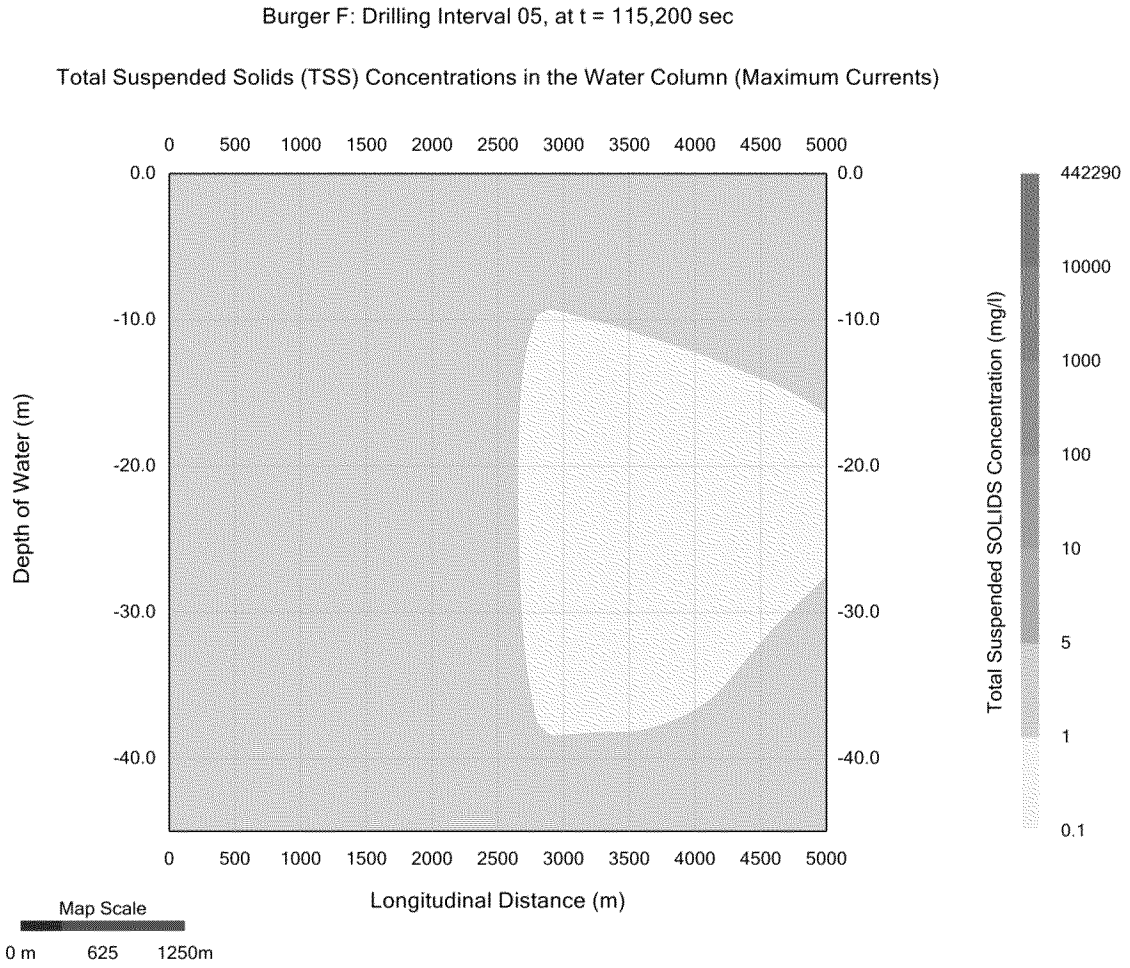


Figure 6-23e: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 33 h (or 4 h after the cessation of release)

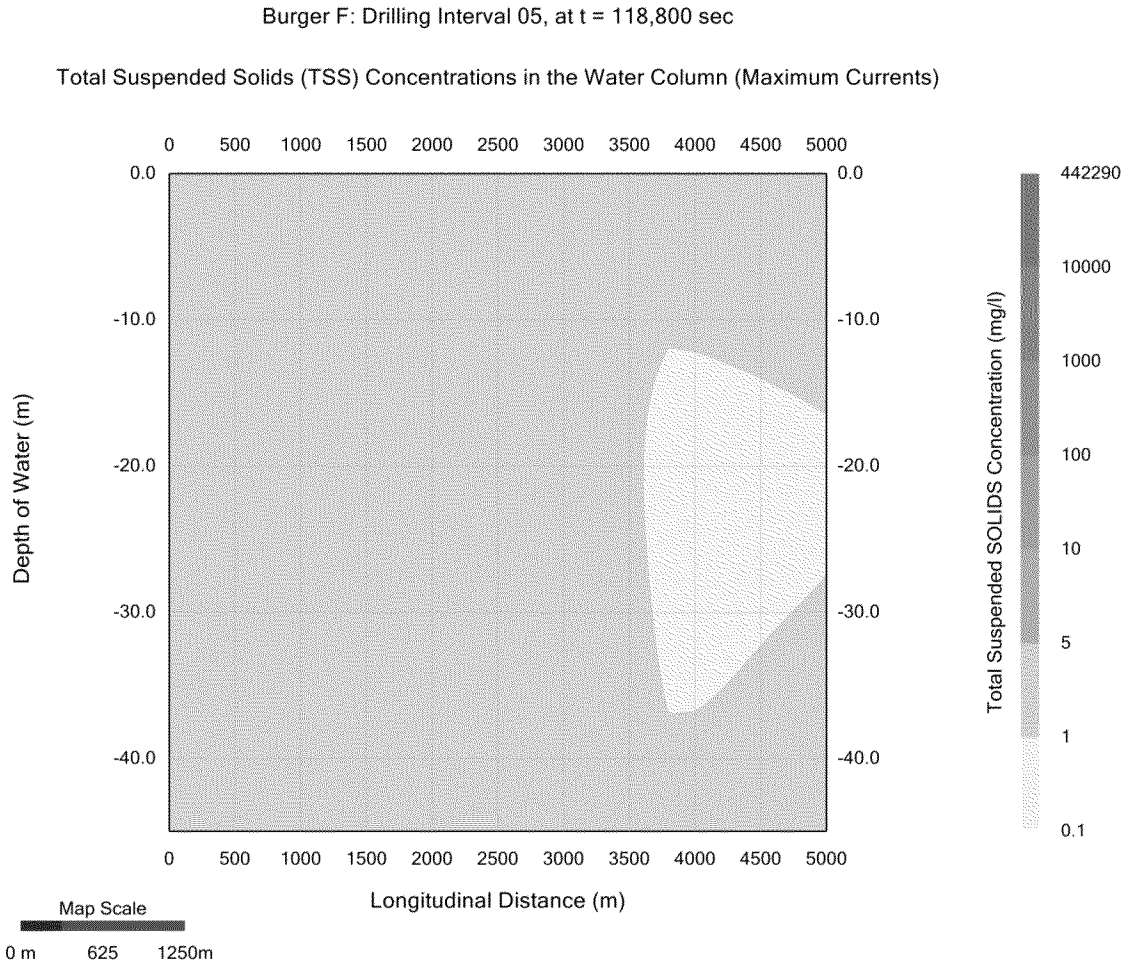


Figure 6-23f: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 34 h (or 5 h after the cessation of release)

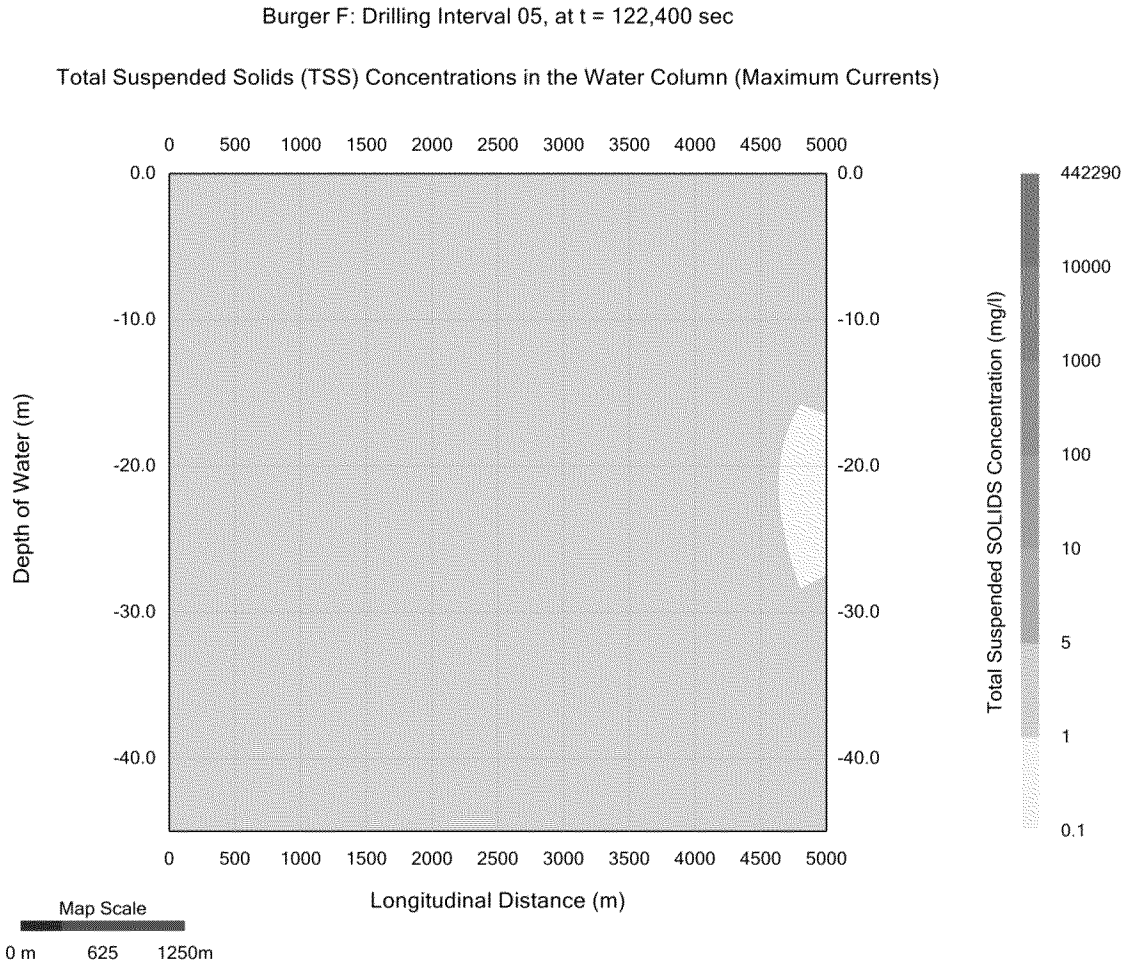
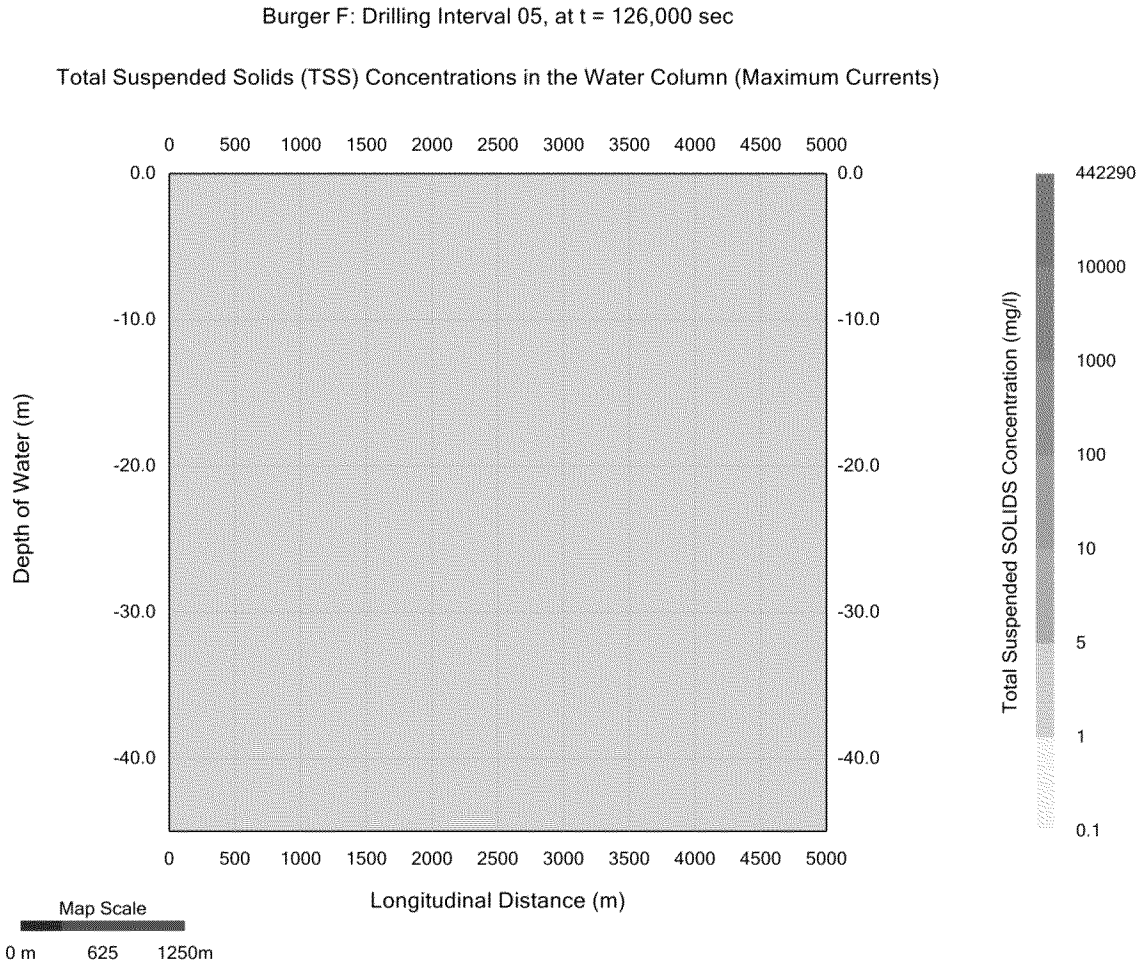


Figure 6-23g: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 35 h (or 6 h after the cessation of release)

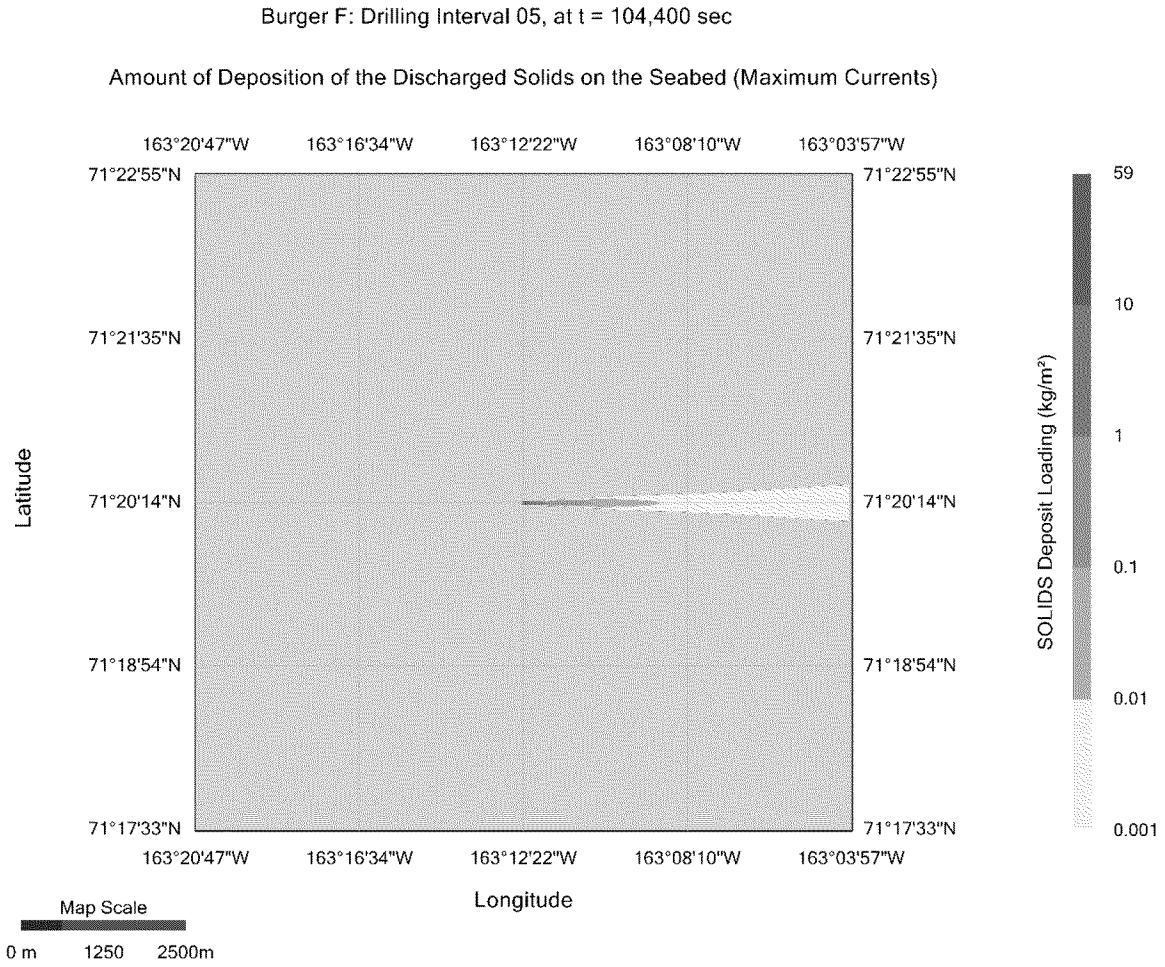


AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent and the amount of solids loading on the sea floor at time, t = **104,400** sec (or **29.0** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figure 5-24**. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as shown in Figure **6-24**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of this figure. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The maximum loading **59** kg/m^2 occurs at **50** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **10** kg/m^2 and **1** kg/m^2 at distances approximately **150** m and **360** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 approximately between **360** and **1,060** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **0.1** kg/m^2 to **0.01** kg/m^2 approximately between **1,060** and **2,100** m distances from the discharge location. The loading is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **2,100** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.573**, **1.399**, **4.312**, and **18.171** ha, respectively.

Figure 6-24: Amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 05



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of solids thickness of **1** cm or larger deposited on the sea floor at time, t = **104,400** sec (or **29.0** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figures 6-25a** and **6-25b**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular colorband. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. The solids deposited on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger as shown by a small dot, occurs on a very small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **6-25**a. The same result is presented in Figure **6-25**b but shows only **240** m x **240** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation of **1** cm or larger on the seabed. The maximum deposit thickness of **3.8** cm occurs at **50** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **110** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately an **80** m x **40** m rectangle area (or **0.354** ha) as presented in Figure **6-25**b.

Figure 6-25a: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 05

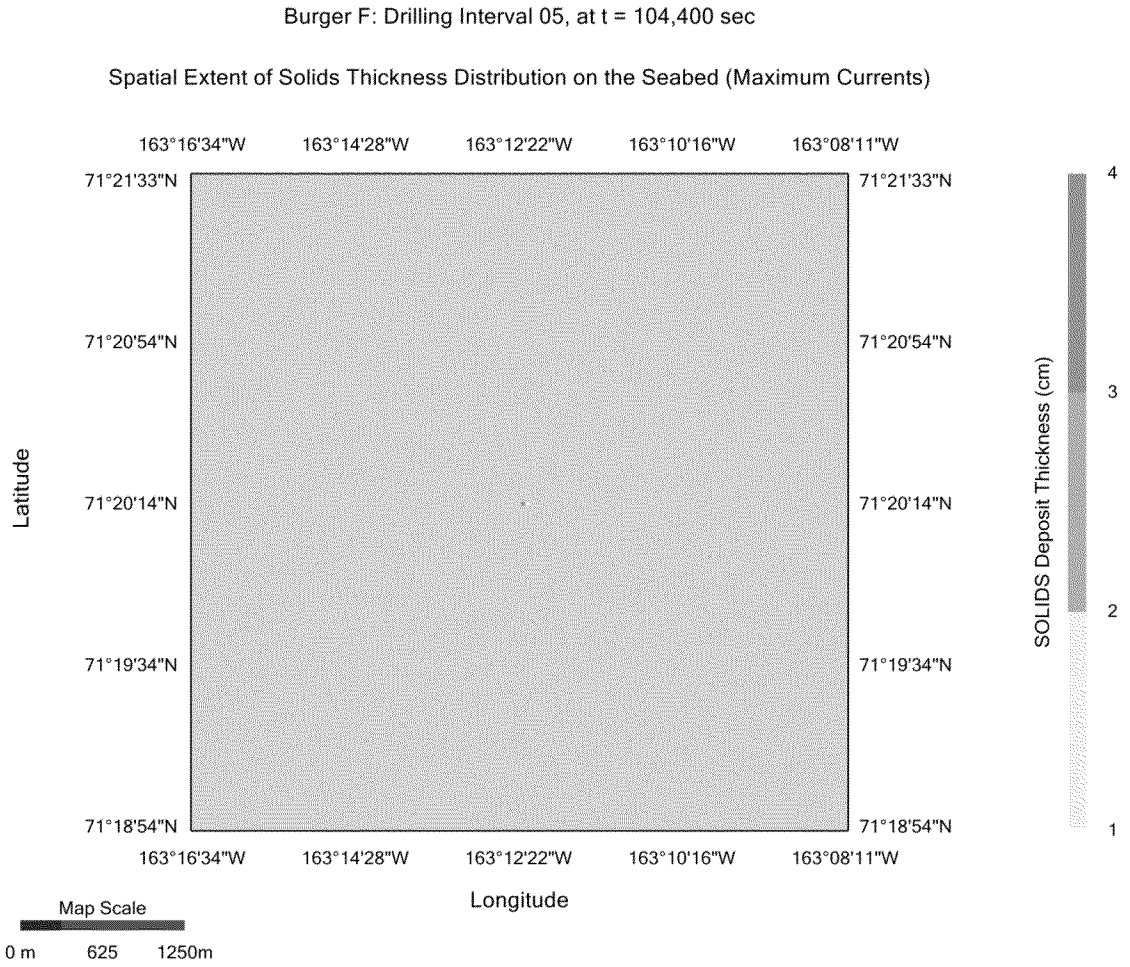
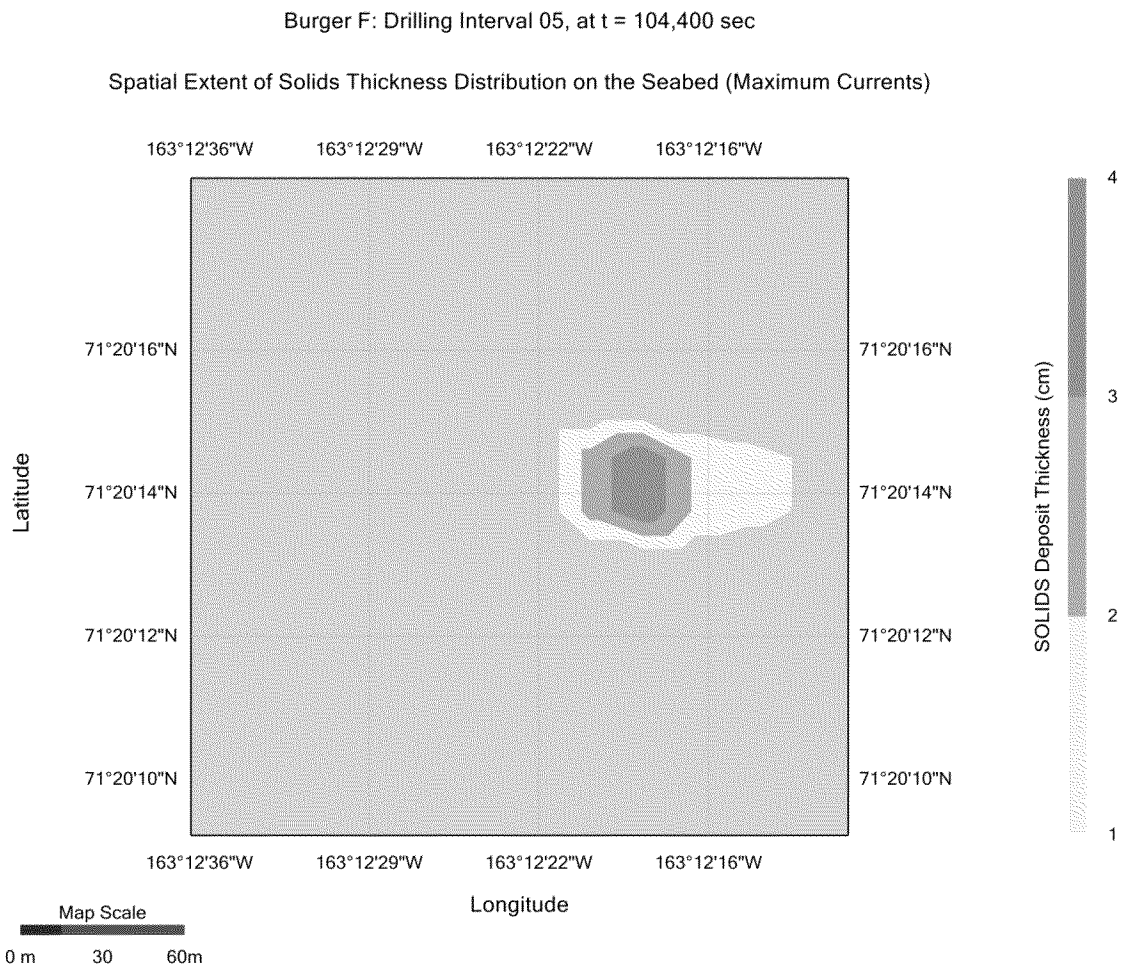


Figure 6-25b: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 05 (Zoom In View)



6.6 Model Results for Sea Surface Discharge Scenario – Drilling Interval 06

Trajectory and Shape of the Discharge Plume

The trajectory of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 6-26**. The depth of water is **45.0** m and the discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m below the sea surface. The heavier plume travels approximately **6.0** m from the discharge location before collapsing into the ambient sea water due to the higher density of the discharge plume. The shape and width of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 6-27**. The width of the plume is approximately **2.3** m at a distance **6.0** m from the discharge location. The solid lines present the outer boundaries and dotted line presents the center line of the discharge plume in Figures **6-26** and **6-27**.

Figure 6-26: Trajectory of the discharge plume at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 06

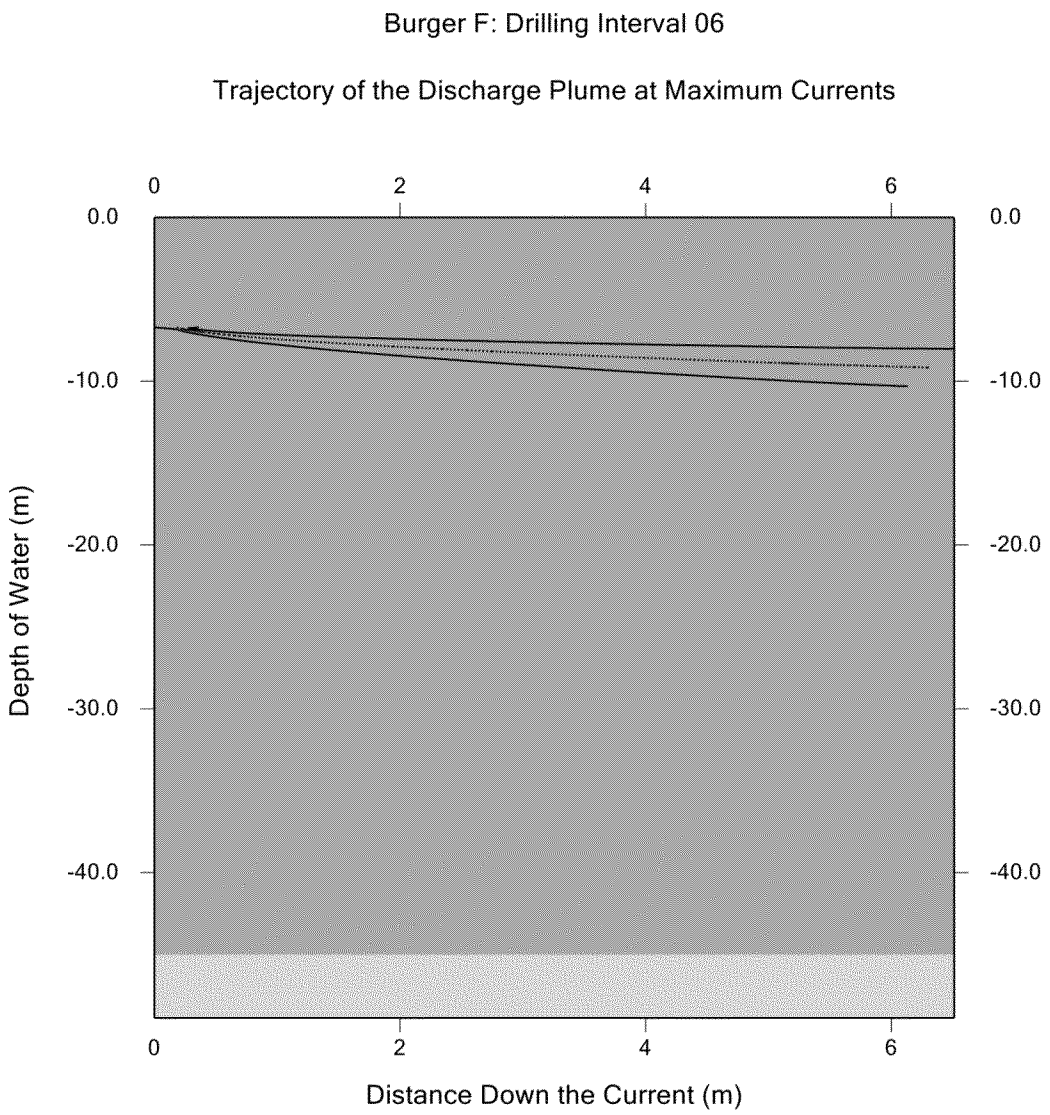
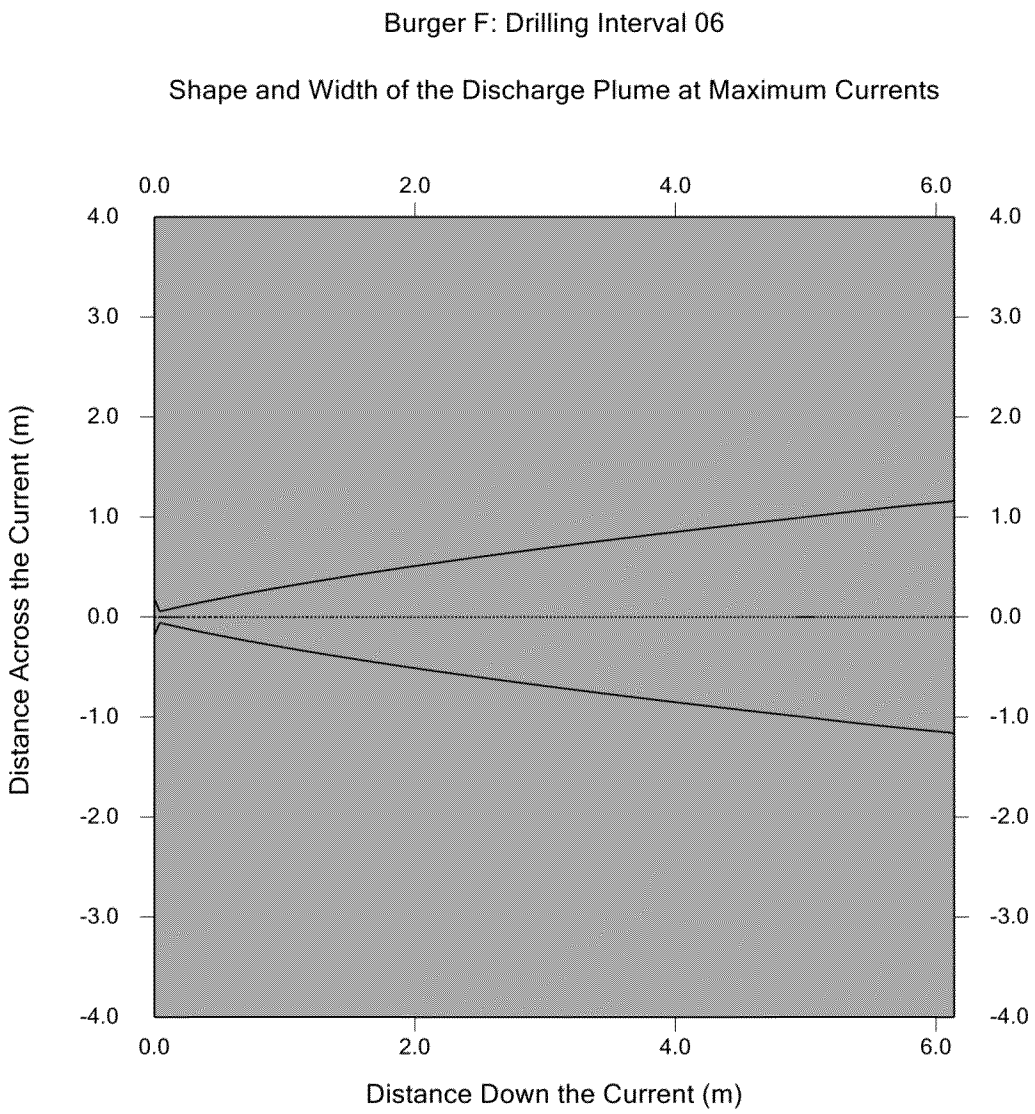


Figure 6-27: Shape and width of the discharge plume at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 06

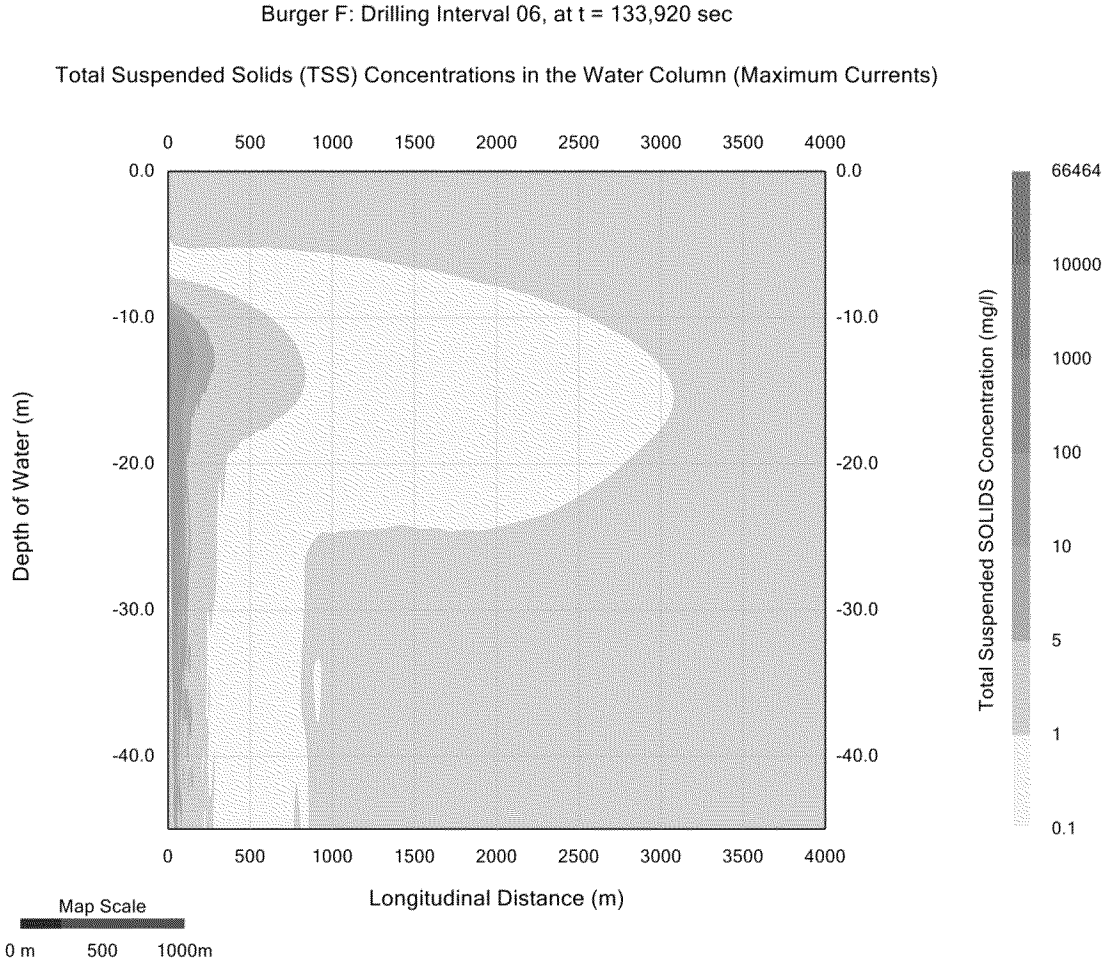


TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE WATER COLUMN

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column at time, t = **133,920** sec (or **37.2** hours) which is the discharge duration for this drilling interval is presented in **Figure 6-28**a. The depth of water is **45.0** m at the discharge location. The discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m from a **14.25** inches internal diameter discharge pipe. Figure **6-28**a presents the maximum TSS concentrations attained during the discharge. The color filled contours present the variations of the TSS concentrations both with respect to the depth from the sea surface and the distance from the source by different color bands. The maximum TSS concentration **66,464** mg/l occurs at the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **100** and **10** mg/l at distances approximately: **20** and **150** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **10** to **5** mg/l between **150** m and **285** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **5** to **1** mg/l between **285** m and **840** m distances from the discharge location. It is less than **1** mg/l beyond **840** m from the discharge location.

The maximum TSS concentrations at **10**-, **30**-, **100**-, **300**-, and **1000**-m from the discharge location are: **200.4**, **73.2**, **15.5**, **4.6**, and **0.7** mg/l, respectively.

Figure 6-28a: Total suspended solids concentrations in water column at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 06



FATE AND TRANSPORT OF THE TSS

The discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids ceases at time, t = **133**,**920** sec (or **37**.**2** hours). The fate and transport of the discharged solids at times **1**, **2**, **3**, and **4** h after the cessation of the discharge are presented by **Figures 6-28**b**, 6-28**c**, 6-28**d**,** and **6-28**e. These figures show that the TSS concentrations within the **5.0** km model domain decrease to: **1** mg/l or less at **1** h, **1** mg/l or less at **2** h, **1** mg/l or less at **3** h, and less than **0**.**1** mg/l at **4** h after the cessation of the discharge. Therefore, it can be described that the ambient TSS concentrations attains pre-existing conditions between **3** and **4** h after the cessation of the discharge based on the assumption that the ambient TSS value is equal to or more than **0**.**1** mg/l within the model domain.

Figure 6-28b: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 38.2 h (or 1 h after the cessation of release)

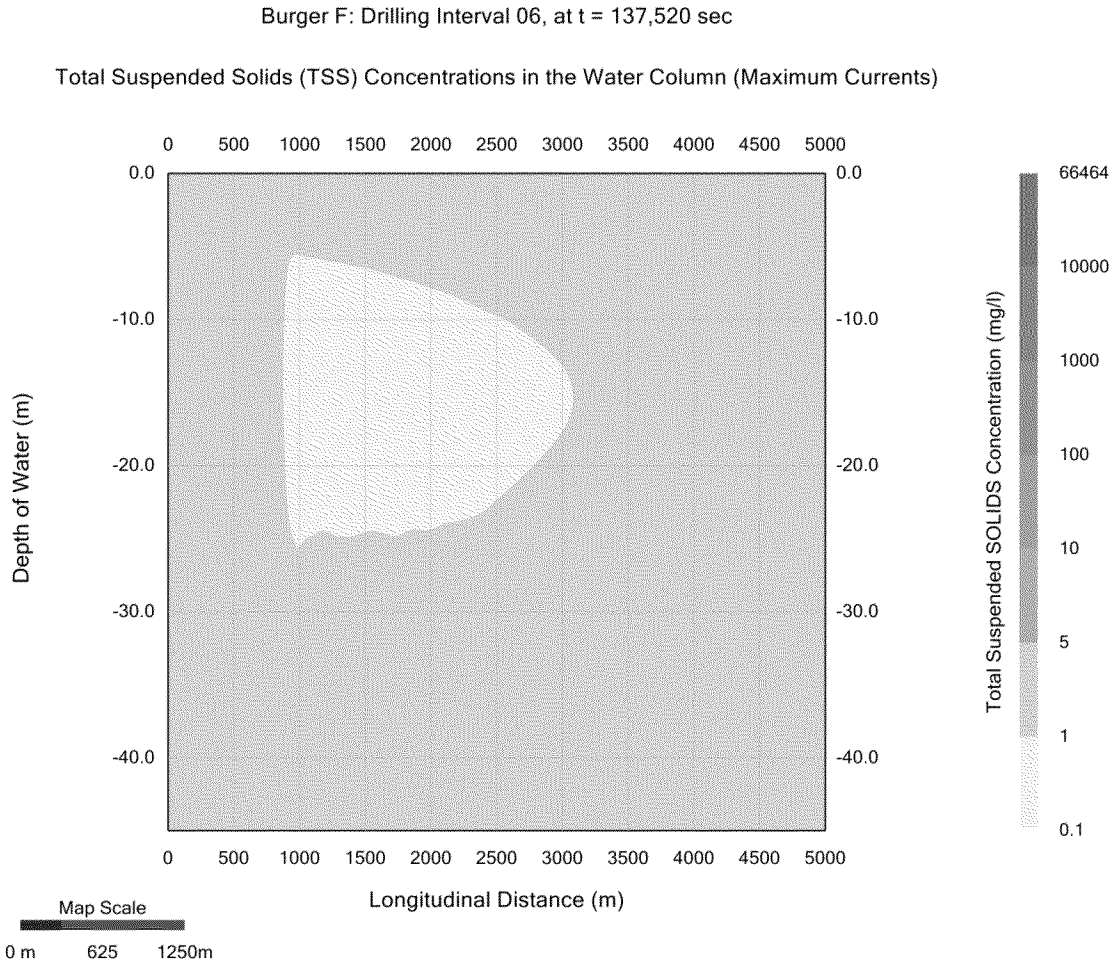


Figure 6-28c: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 39.2 h (or 2 h after the cessation of release)

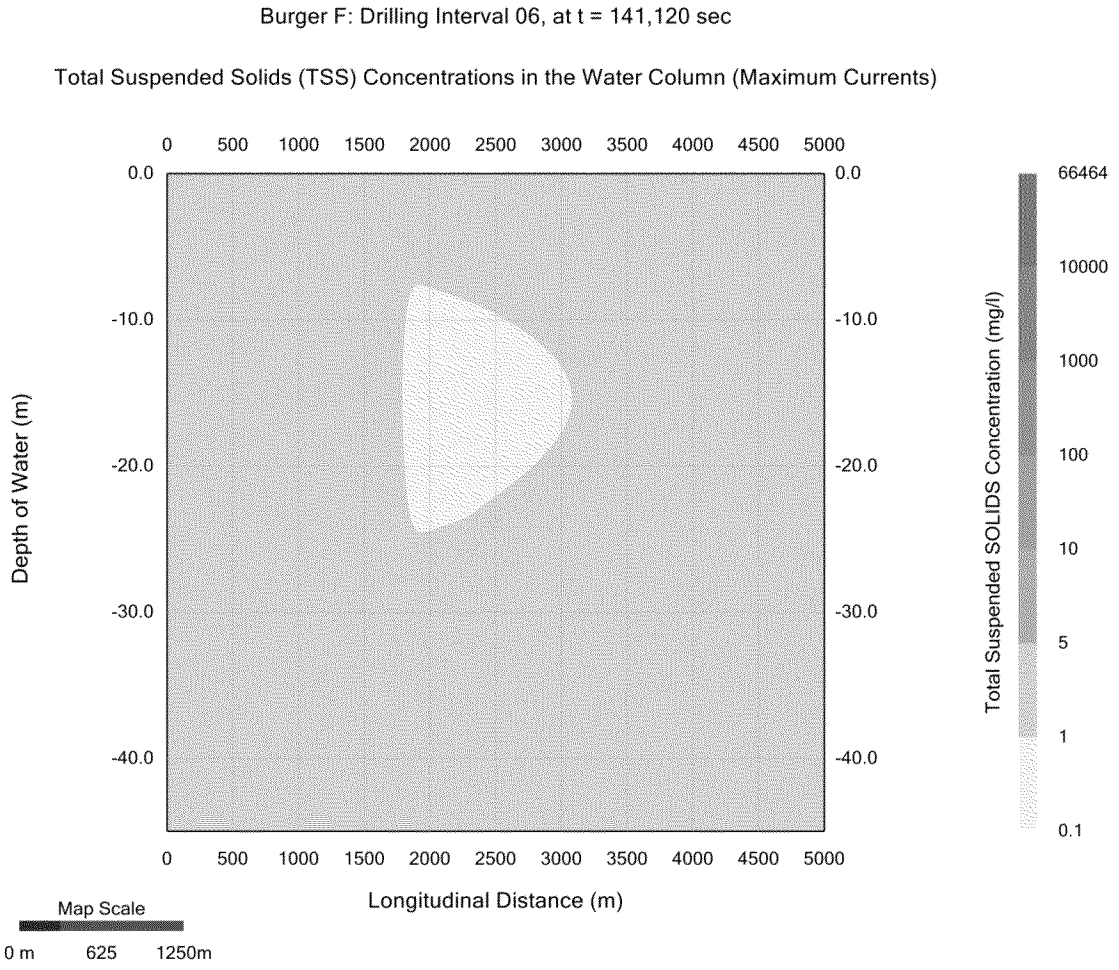


Figure 6-28d: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 40.2 h (or 3 h after the cessation of release)

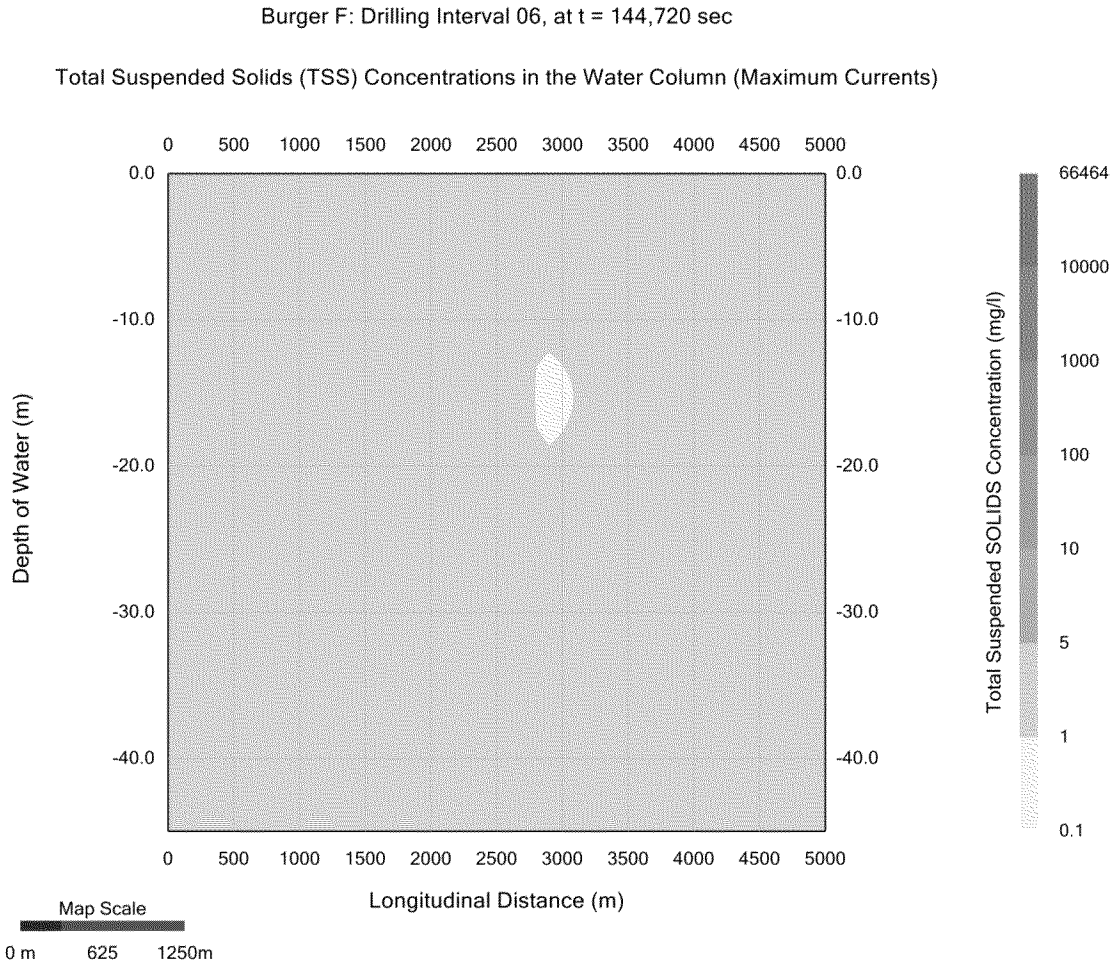
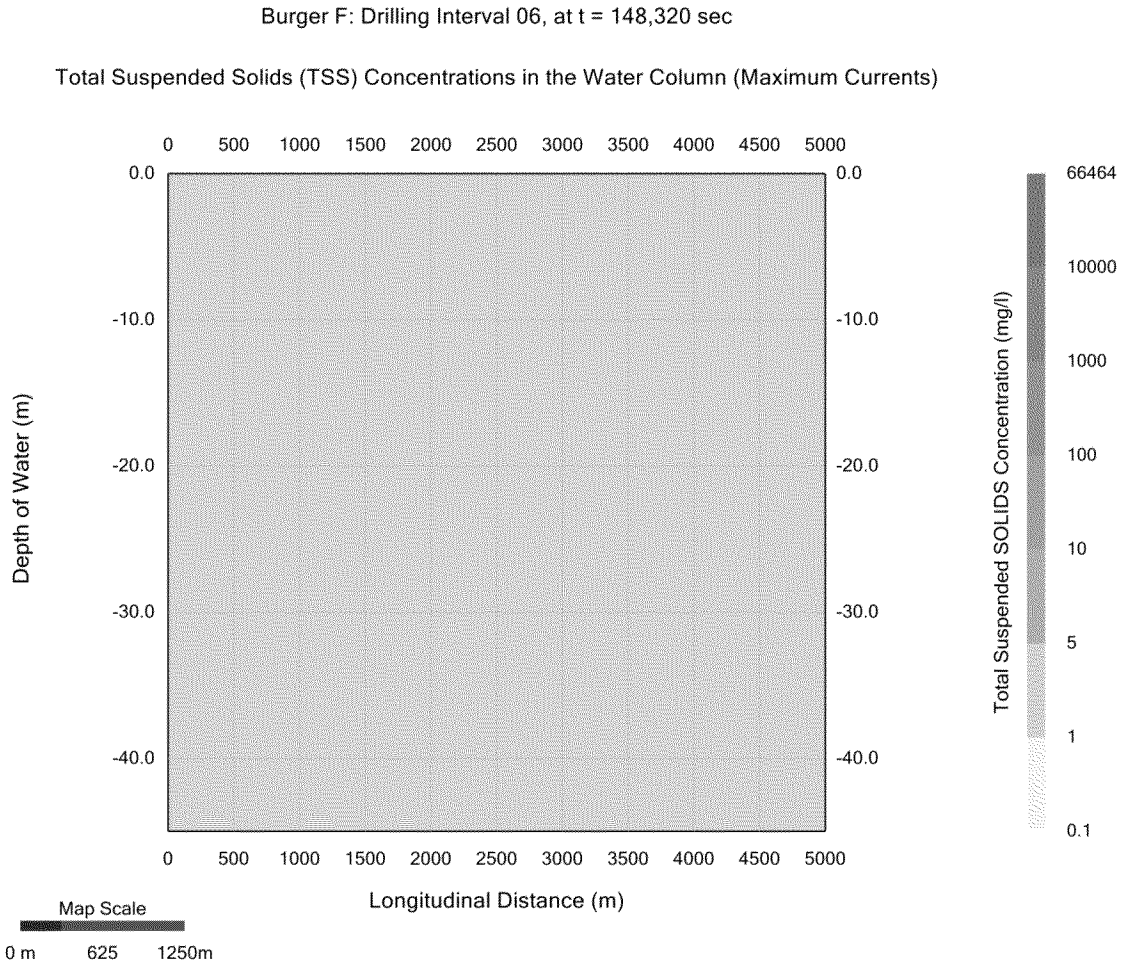


Figure 6-28e: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 41.2 h (or 4 h after the cessation of release)

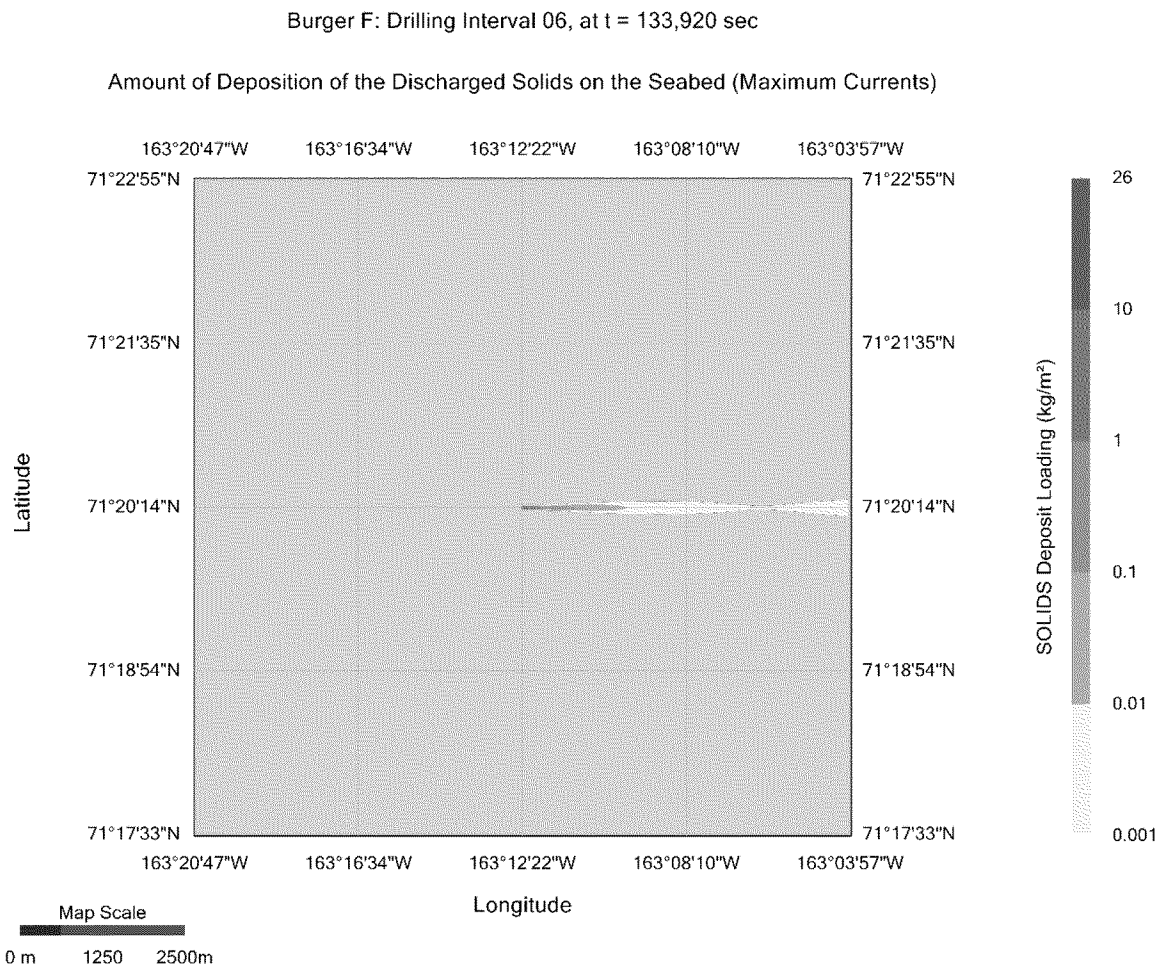


AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent and the amount of solids loading on the sea floor at time, t = **133,920** sec (or **37.2** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figure 6-29**. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as shown in Figure **6-29**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of this figure. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The maximum loading **25** kg/m^2 occurs at **50** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **10** kg/m^2 and **1** kg/m^2 at distances approximately **75** m and **300** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 approximately between **300** and **820** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **0.1** kg/m^2 to **0.01** kg/m^2 approximately between **820** and **1610** m distances from the discharge location. The loading is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **1610** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.255**, **1.149**, **3.195**, and **10.739** ha, respectively.

Figure 6-29: Amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 06



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of solids thickness of **1** cm or larger deposited on the sea floor at time, t = **133,920** sec (or **37.2** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based drill cuttings and drill fluids on a plan view is presented in **Figures 6-30a** and **6-30b**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular colorband. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. The solids deposited on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger as shown by a small dot, occurs on a very small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **6-30**a. The same result is presented in Figure **6-30**b but shows only **240** m x **240** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation of **1** cm or larger on the seabed. The maximum deposit thickness of **1.6** cm occurs at **50** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **65** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **30** m x **35** m rectangle area or **0.109** ha as presented in Figure **6-30**b.

Figure 6-30a: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 06

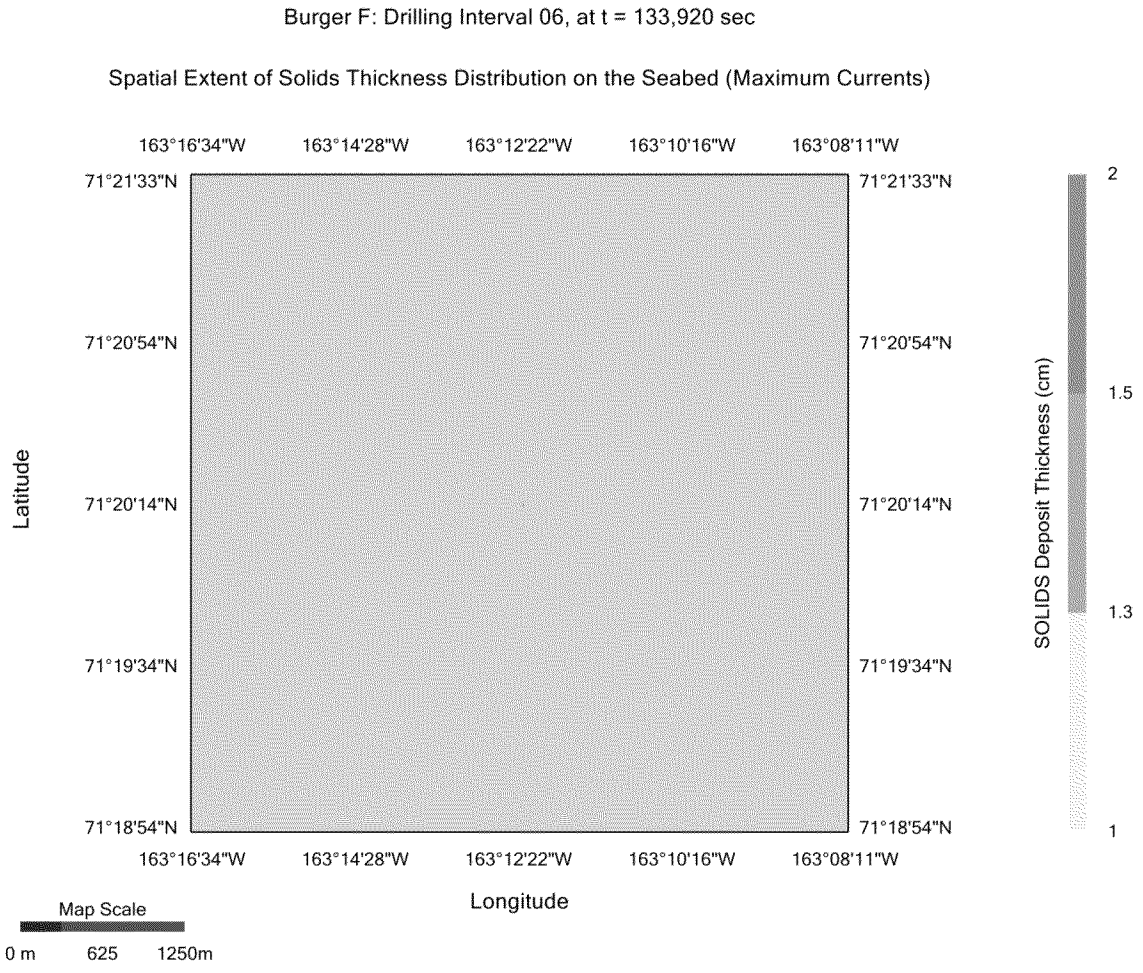
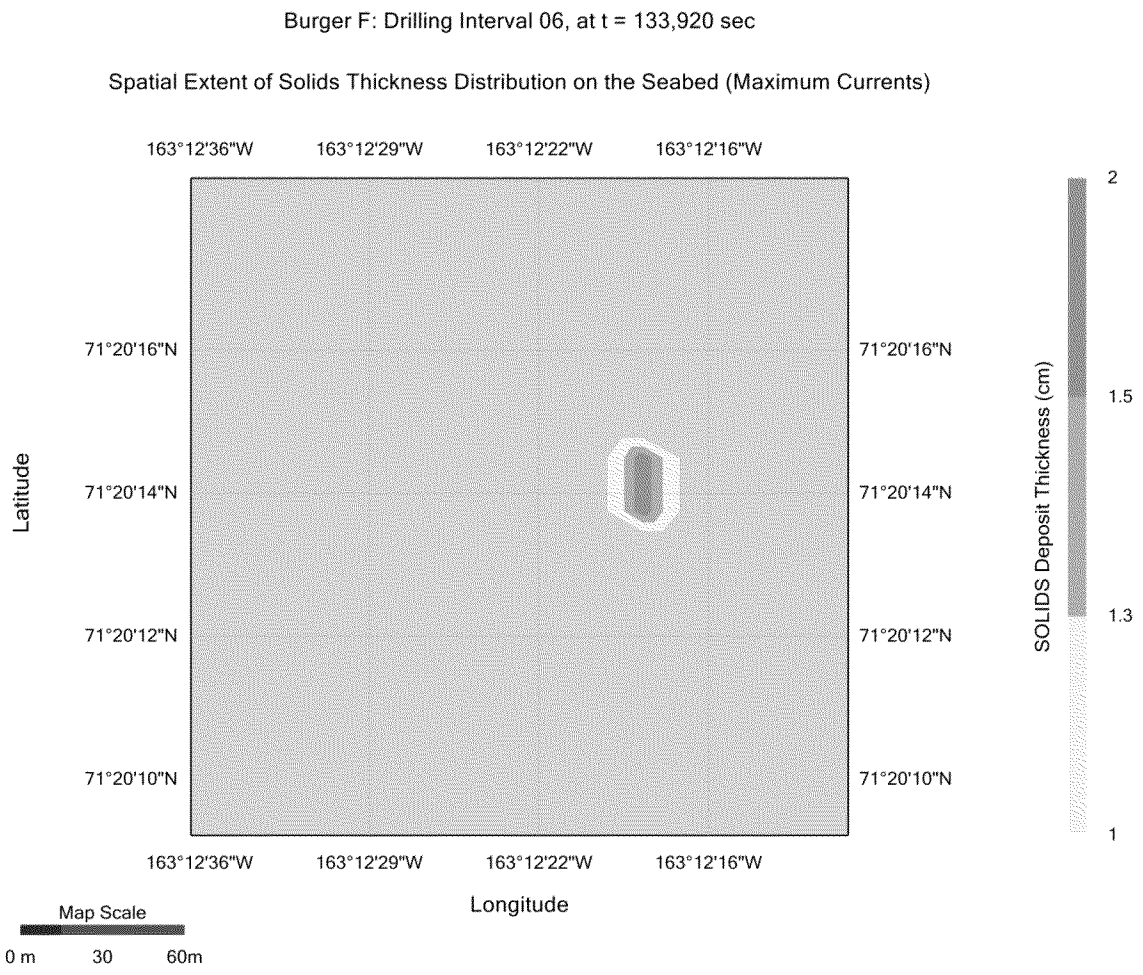


Figure 6-30b: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Drilling Interval 06 (Zoom In View)



6.7 Model Results for Sea Surface Discharge Scenario – Rigs Surface Pits

Water Based Muds Discharge from Rigs Surface Pits at the end of the Drilling Operation

Trajectory and Shape of the Discharge Plume

The trajectory of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 6-31**. The depth of water is **45.0** m and the discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m below the sea surface. The heavier plume travels approximately **165** m from the discharge location before collapsing into the ambient sea water due to the higher density of the discharge plume. The shape and width of the discharge plume is presented in **Figure 6-32**. The width of the plume is approximately **55.0** m at a distance **165.0** m from the discharge location. The solid lines present the outer boundaries and dotted line presents the center line of the discharge plume in Figures **6-31** and **6-32**.

Figure 6-31: Trajectory of the discharge plume at maximum currents, Rig's Surface Pits

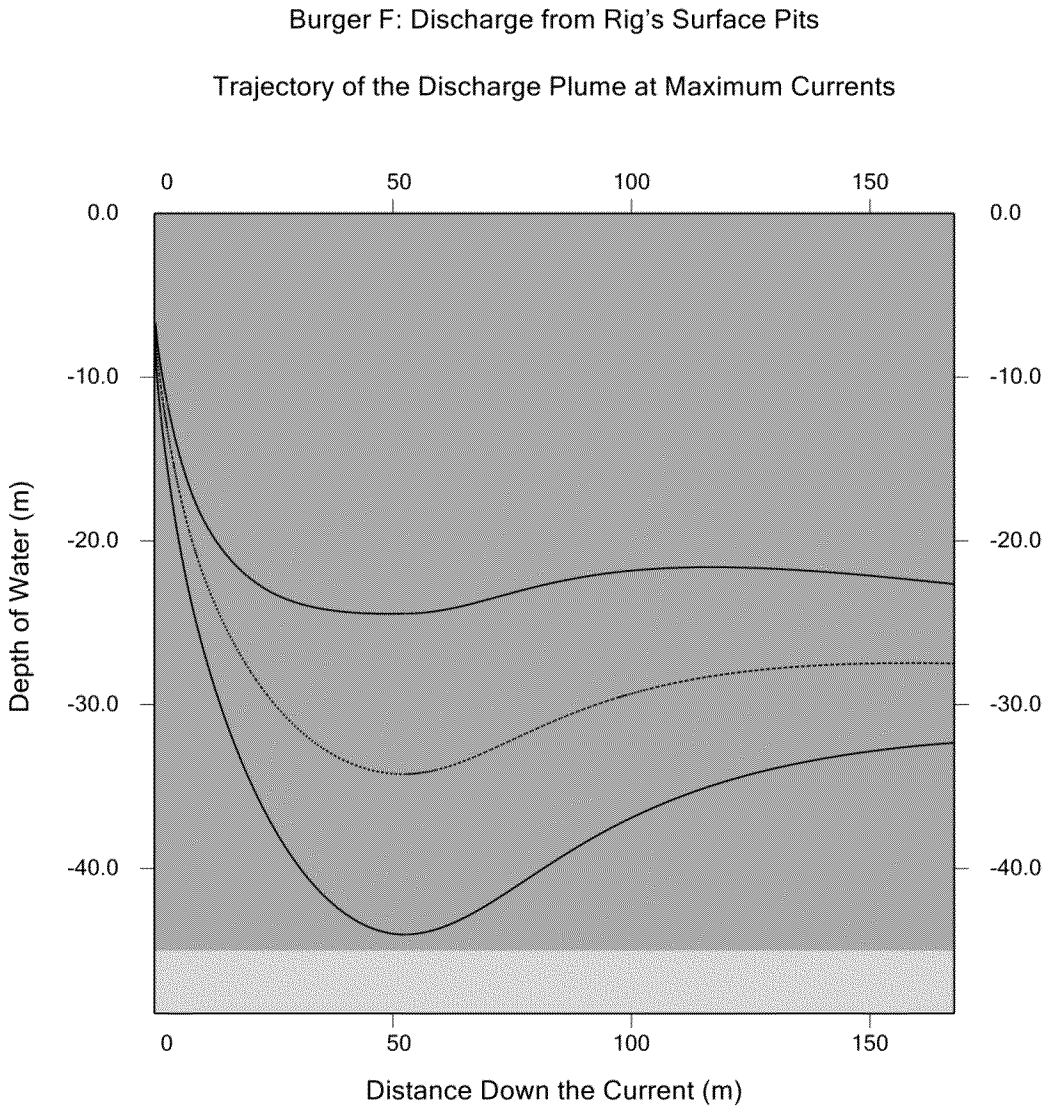
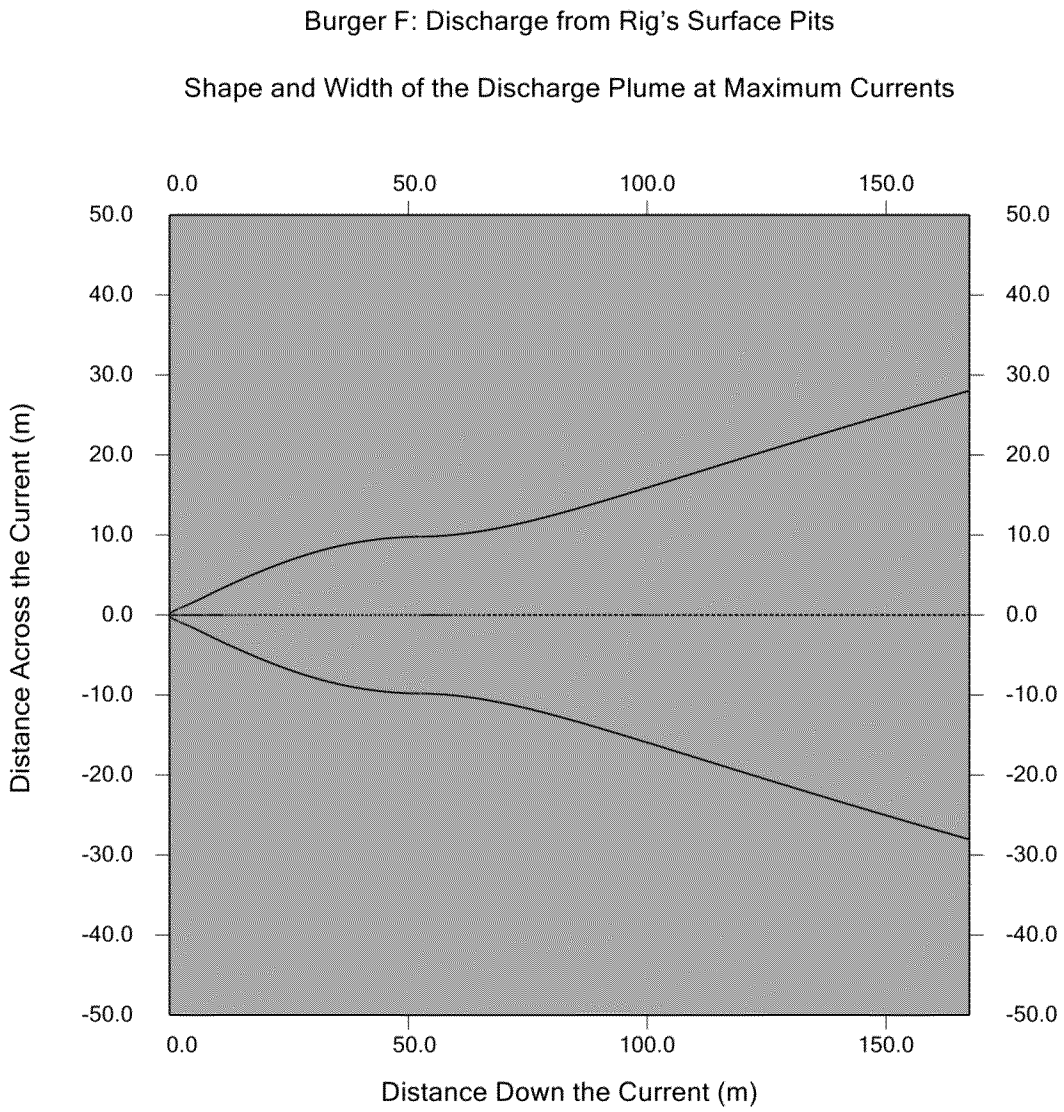


Figure 6-32: Shape and width of the discharge plume at maximum currents, Rig's Surface Pits

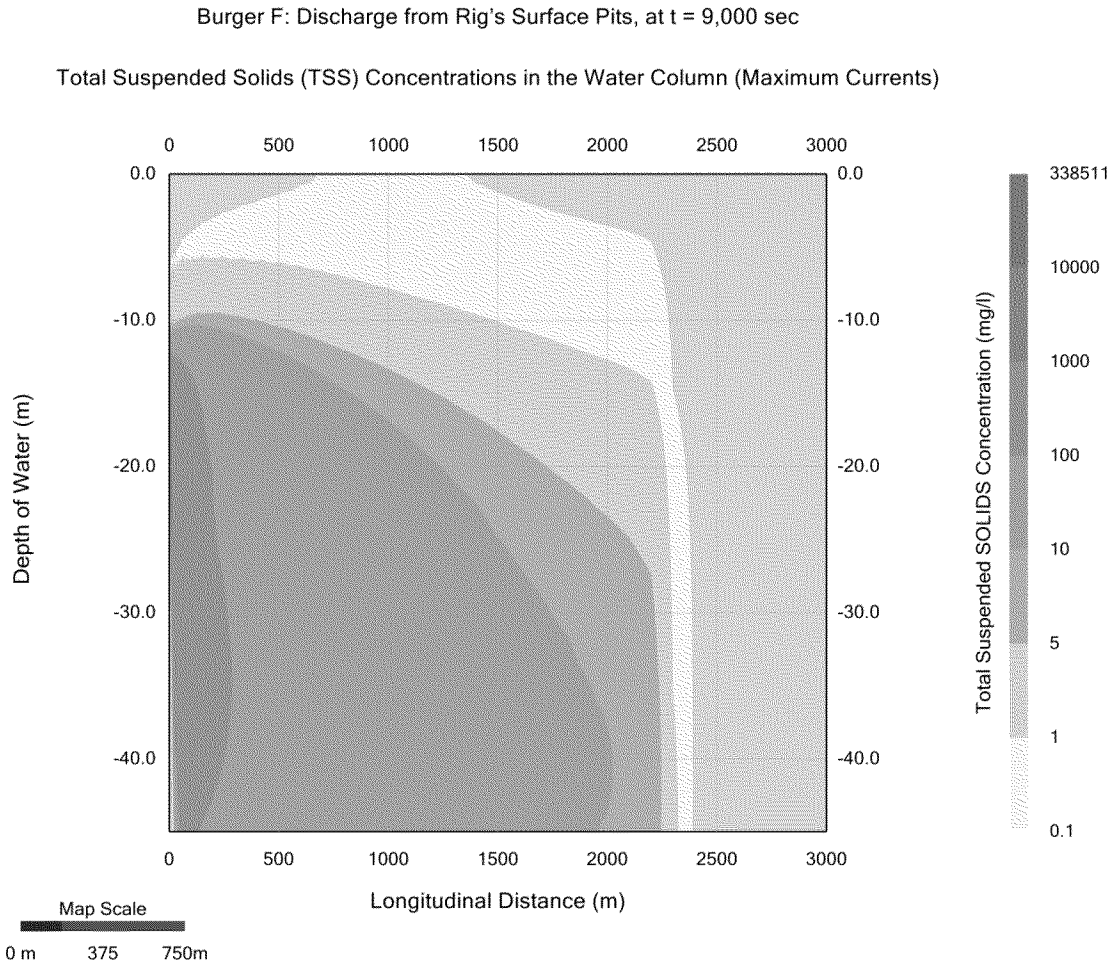


TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE WATER COLUMN

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentration in the water column at time, t = **9,000** sec (or **2.5** hours) which is the discharge duration for the water based muds from the rig's surface pits is presented in **Figure 6-33a**. The depth of water is **45.0** m at the discharge location. The discharge occurs at a depth of **6.71** m from a **14.25** inches internal diameter discharge pipe. Figure **6-33**a presents the maximum TSS concentrations attained during the discharge. The color filled contours present the variations of the TSS concentrations both with respect to the depth from the sea surface and the distance from the source by different color bands. The maximum TSS concentration **338,511** mg/l occurs at the discharge location. It decreases rapidly to a value of **100** mg/l at a distance approximately **300** m from the discharge location. It varies from **100** to **10** mg/l between **300** m and **2,020** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **10** to **5** mg/l between **2,020** m and **2,250** m distances from the discharge location. It varies from **5** to **1** mg/l between **2,250** m and **2,325** m distances from the source. It is less than **1** mg/l beyond **2,325** m from the discharge location.

The maximum TSS concentrations at **10**-, **30**-, **100**-, **300**-, and **1000**-m from the discharge location are: **1,806.9**, **335.1**, **178.6**, **96.5**, and **31.2** mg/l, respectively.

Figure 6-33a: Total suspended solids concentrations in water column at maximum currents, Rig's Surface Pits



FATE AND TRANSPORT OF THE TSS

The discharge of the water based muds ceases at time, t = **9,000** sec (or **2.5** hours). The fate and transport of the discharged solids at times **1**, **2, 3, 4, 5**, and **6** h after the cessation of the discharge are presented by **Figures 6-33**b, **6-33**c, **6-33**d , **6-33**e, **6-33**f, and **6-33**g. These figures show that the TSS concentrations within the **5.0** km model domain decrease to: **100** mg/l or less at **1** h, **100** mg/l or less at **2** h, **10** mg/l or less at **3** h, **10** mg/l or less at **4** h, **5** mg/l or less at **5** h, and less than **0.1** mg/l at **6** h after the cessation of the discharge. Therefore, it can be described that the ambient TSS concentrations attains pre-existing conditions between **5** and **6** h after the cessation of the discharge based on the assumption that the ambient TSS value is equal to or more than **0.1** mg/l within the model domain.

Figure 6-33b: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 3.5 h (or 1 h after the cessation of release)

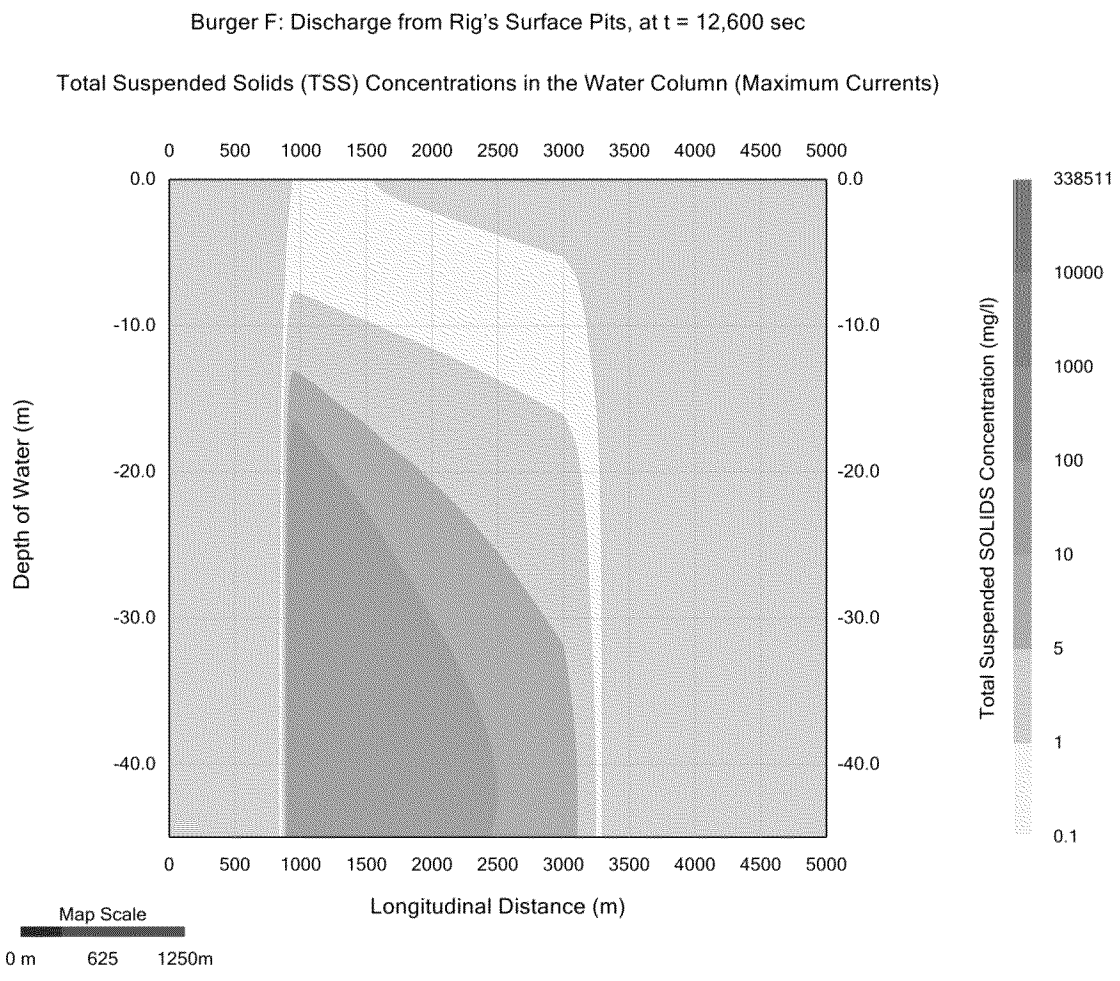


Figure 6-33c: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 4.5 h (or 2 h after the cessation of release)

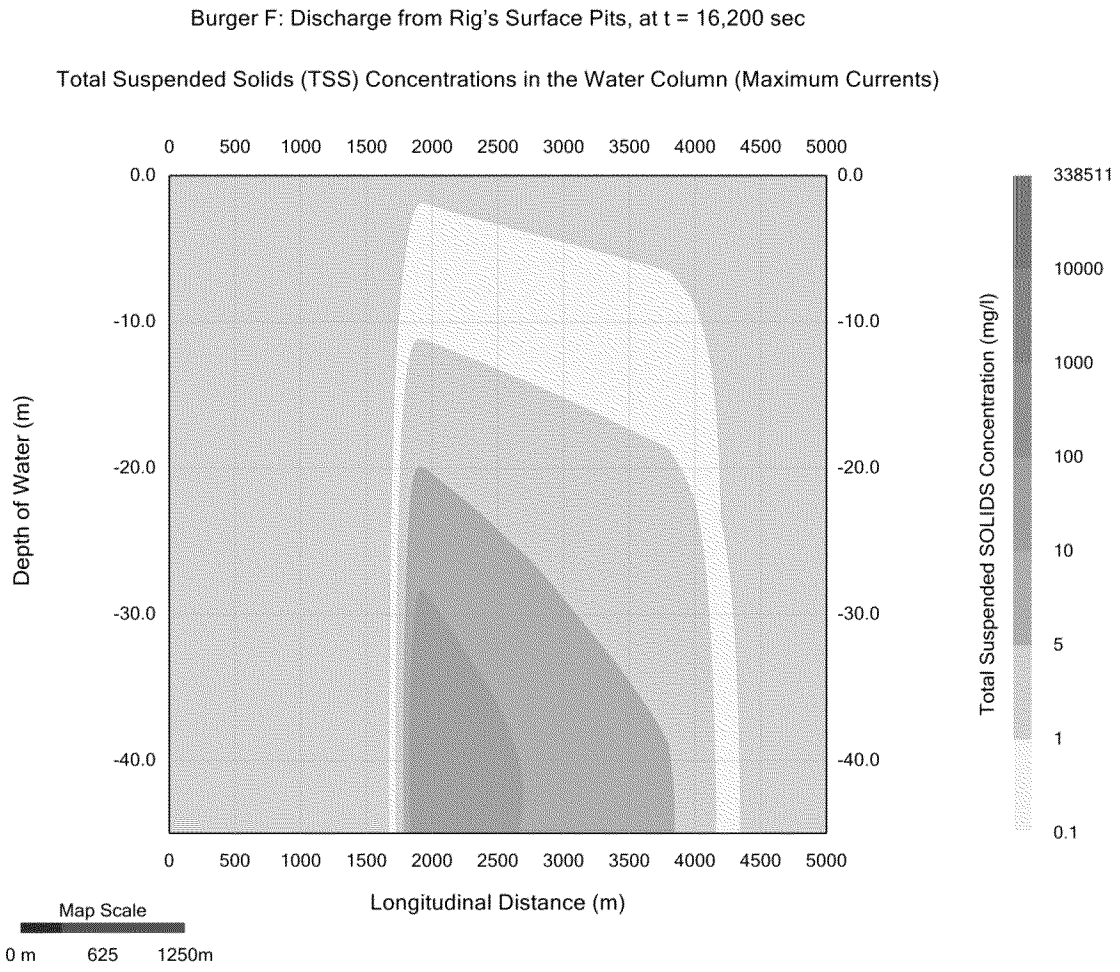


Figure 6-33d: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 5.5 h (or 3 h after the cessation of release)

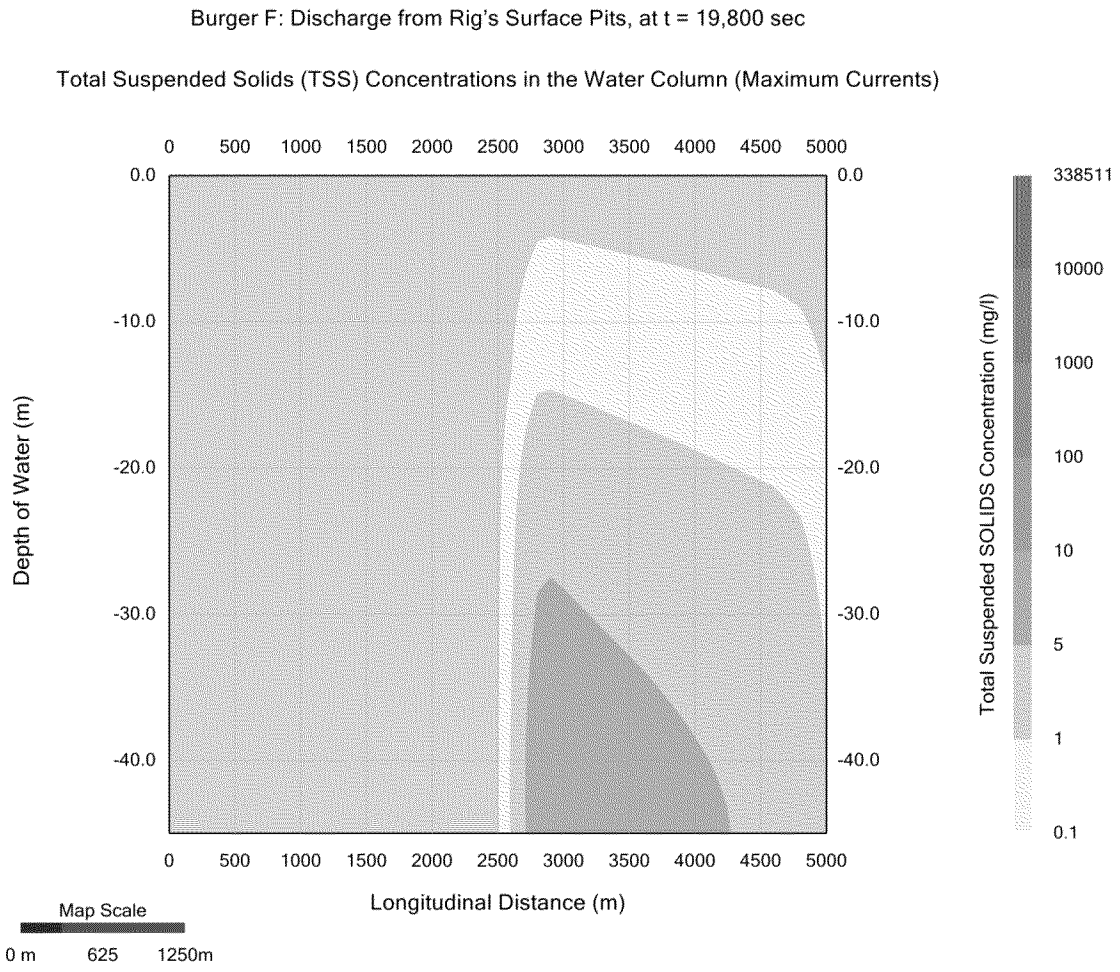


Figure 6-33e: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 6.5 h (or 4 h after the cessation of release)

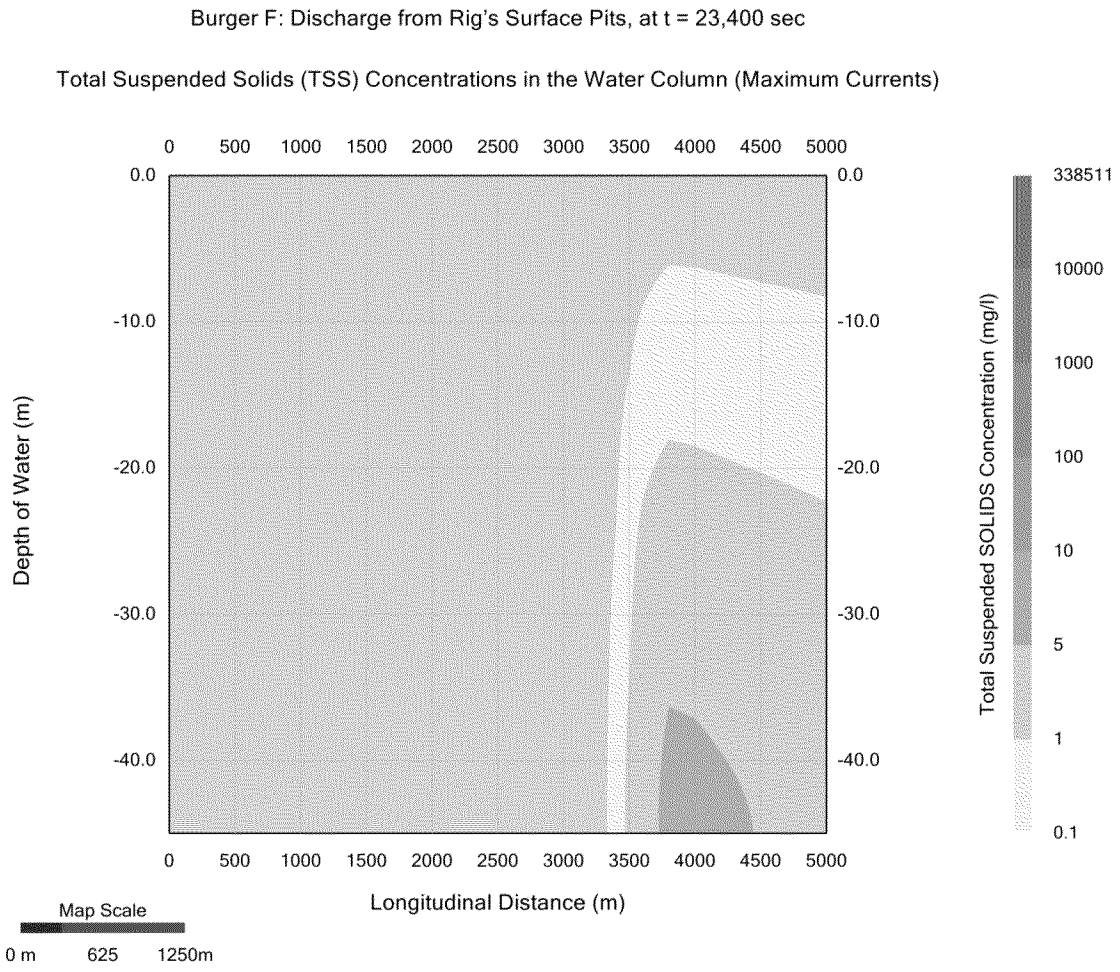


Figure 6-33f: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 7.5 h (or 5 h after the cessation of release)

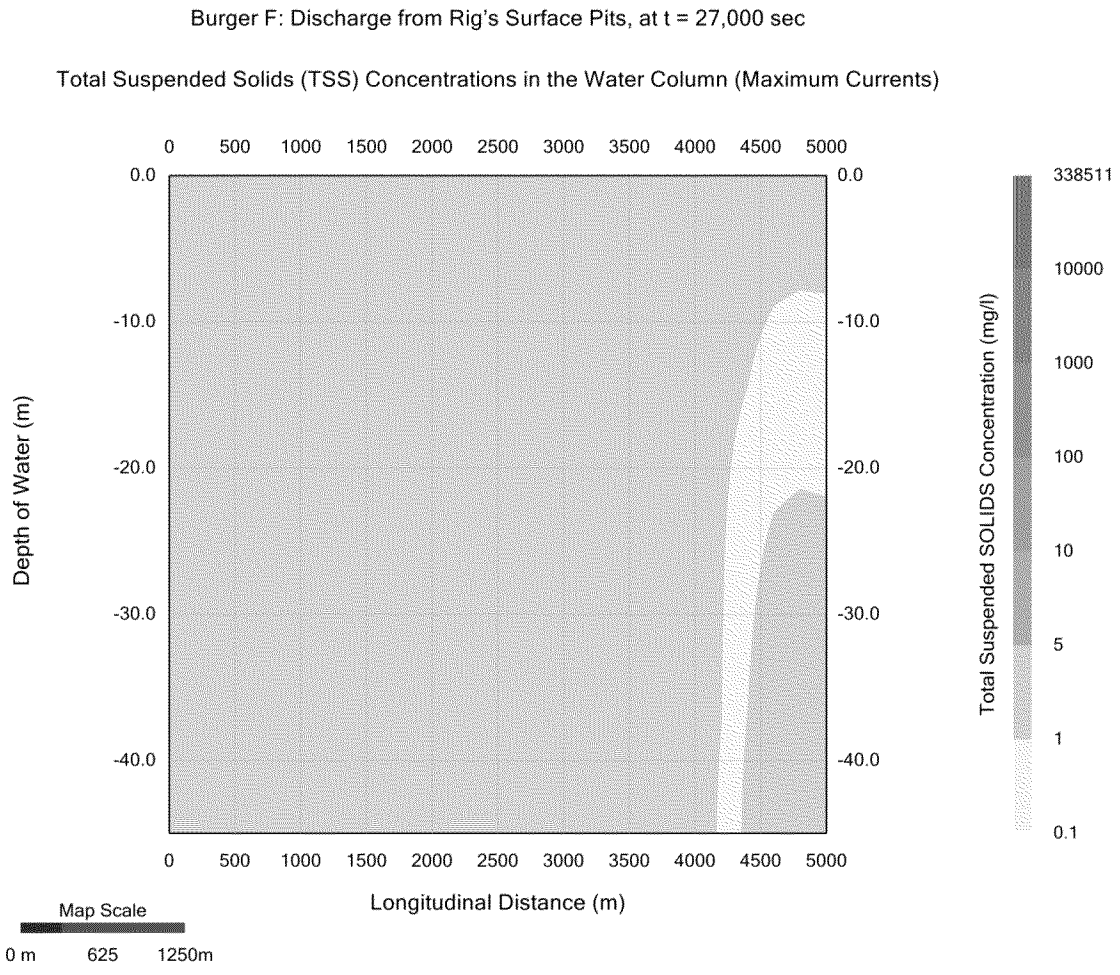
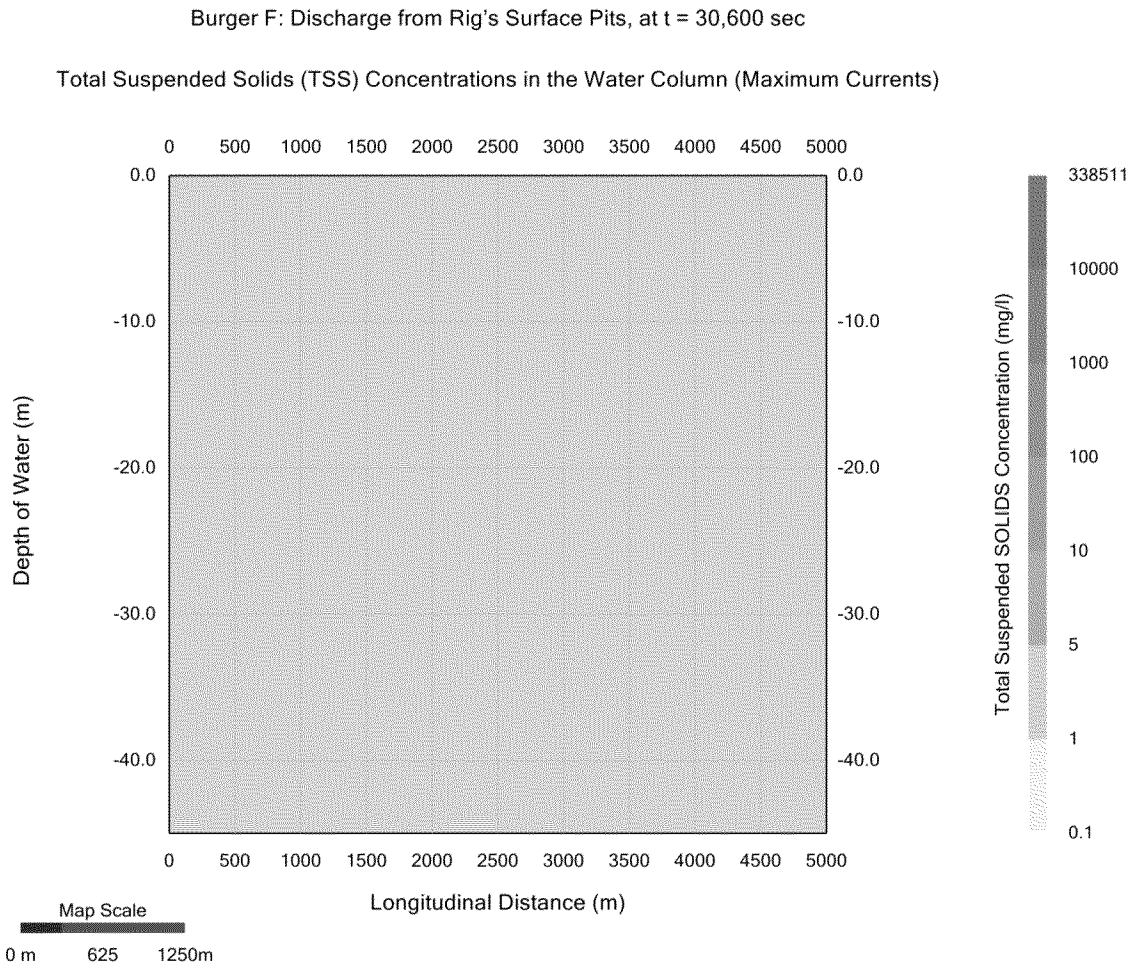


Figure 6-33g: TSS concentrations during the maximum currents at 8.5 h (or 6 h after the cessation of release)

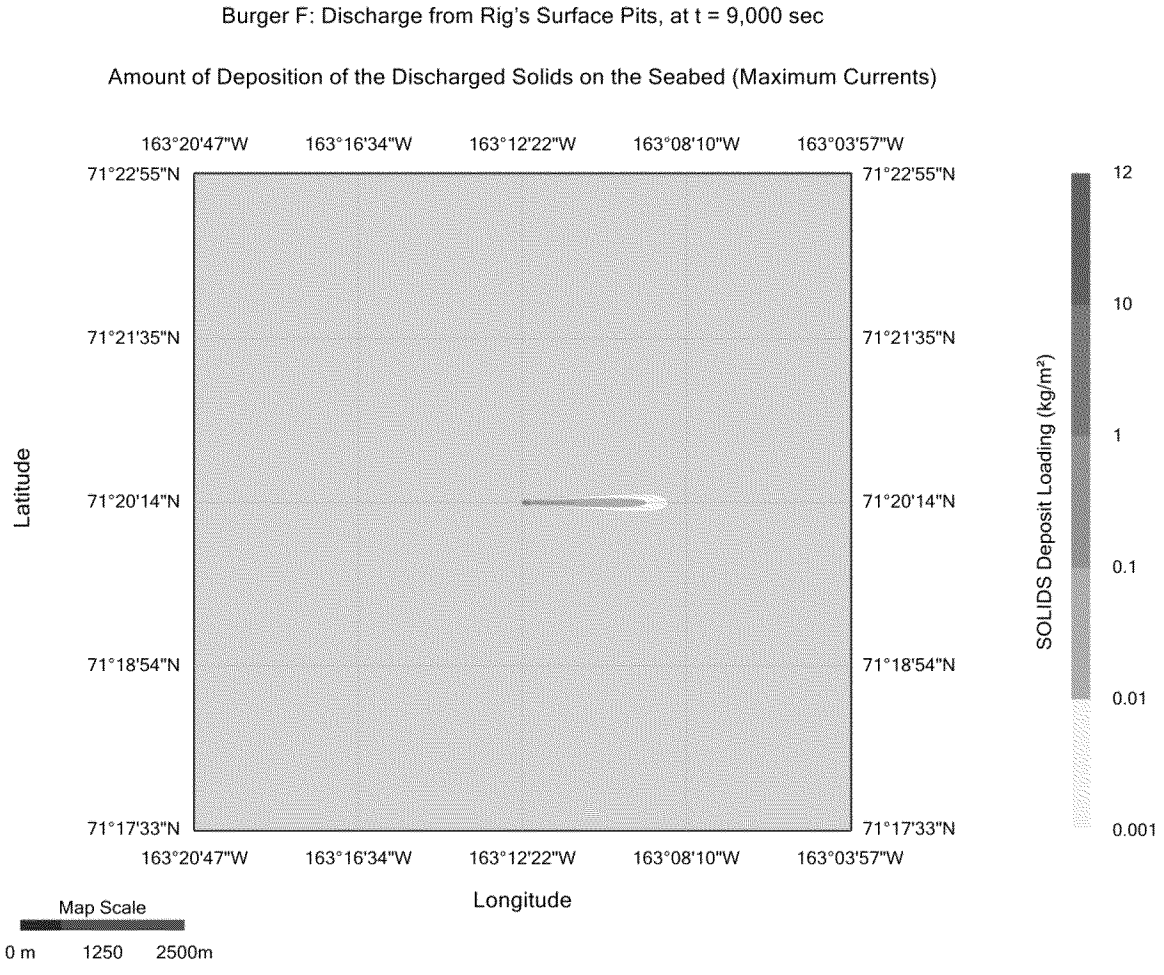


AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent and the amount of solids loading on the sea floor at time, t = **9,000** sec (or **2.5** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based muds from the rig's surface pits on a plan view is presented in **Figure 6-34**. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as shown in Figure **6-34**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of this figure. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The maximum loading **11** kg/m^2 occurs at **50** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **10** kg/m^2 and **1** kg/m^2 at distances approximately **60** m and **140** m, respectively from the discharge location. It varies from **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 between distances approximately **140** m and **830** m, respectively from the discharge location. . It varies from **0.1** kg/m^2 to **0.01** kg/m^2 between distances approximately **830** m and **1,910** m, respectively from the discharge location. It is less than **0.01** kg/m^2 beyond **1,910** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.105**, **0.438**, **3.260**, and **19.490** ha, respectively.

Figure 6-34: Amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at maximum currents, Rig's Surface Pits



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of solids thickness deposited on the sea floorat time, t = **9,000** sec (or **2.5** hours) as a result of the discharge of the water based muds from the rig's surface pits on a plan view is presented in **Figures 6-35a** and **6-35b**. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular color band. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. The solids deposited on the seabed of thickness**1** cm or larger as shown by a small dot, occurs on a very small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **6-35**a. The same result is presented in Figure **6-35**b but shows only **240** m x **240** m seabed surface with the well at the center to show the details of the solids accumulation on the seabed.The maximum deposit thickness of **0.6** cm occurs at **50** m to the east and **10** m to the north from the discharge location. **It is less than 1 cm**.

Figure 6-35a: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Rig's Surface Pits

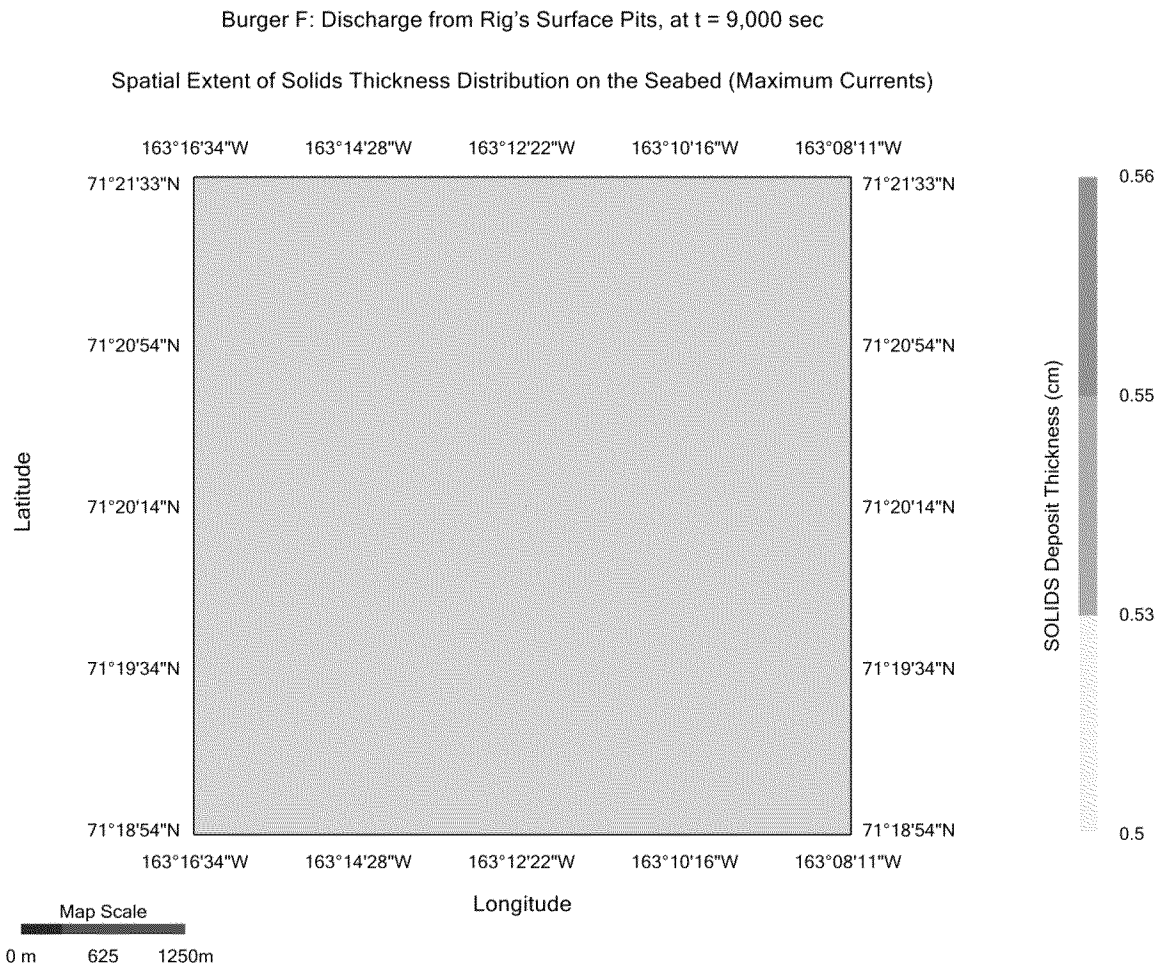
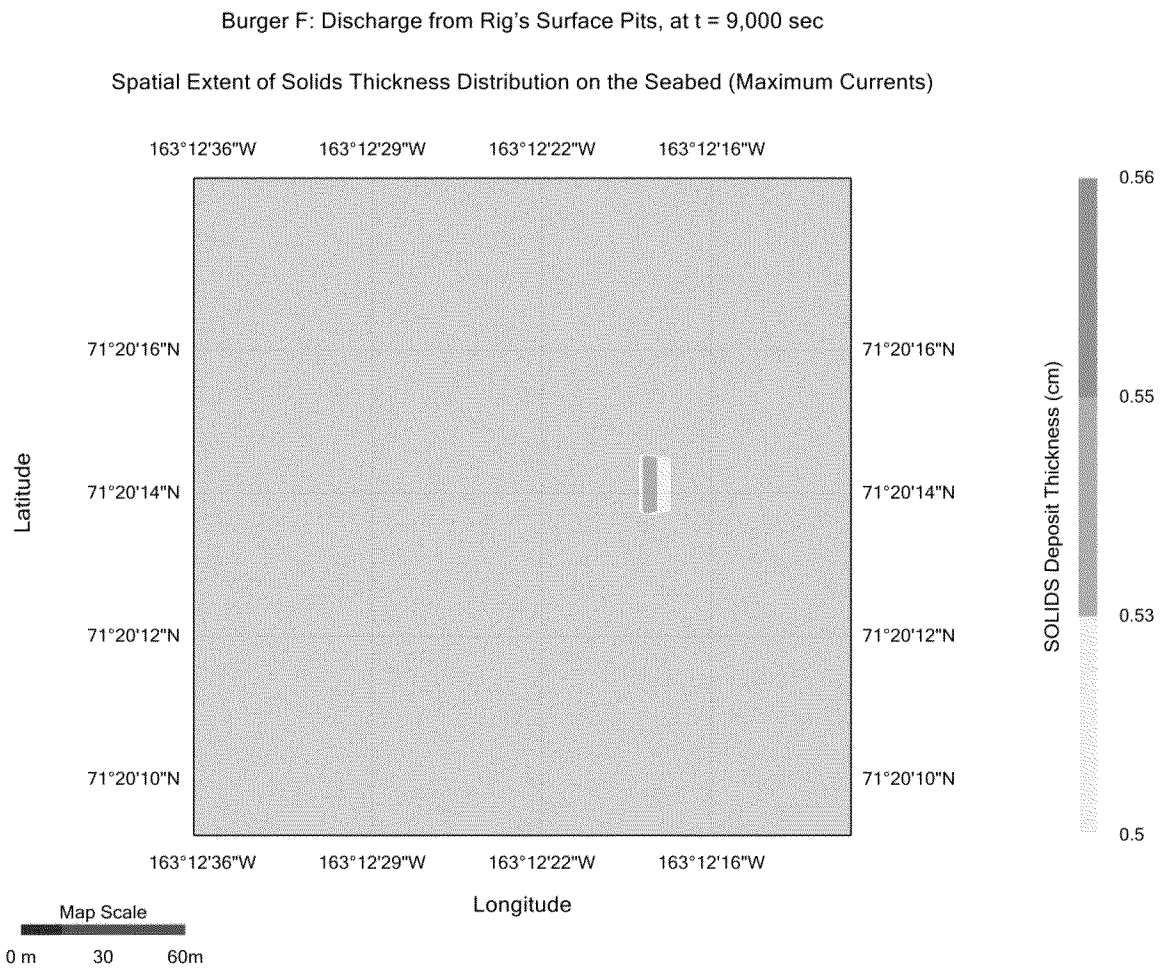


Figure 6-35b: Spatial extent of solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Rig's Surface Pits (Zoom In View)



6.8 COMBINED MODEL RESULTS - SEA FLOOR AND SEA SURFACE DISCHARGES , BURGER F

The spatial extent of the total amount of deposition of the discharged solids on the seabed from the six discrete drilling intervals (**01**, **02**, **03**, **04**, **05**, and **06**) and the rig's surface pits were compiled using the GUIDO**7** (version **7.3**) for the OOC model yielding the total solids deposition loading and thickness distribution on the seabed from the drilling operation at the Burger F well site.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF DEPOSITION OF THE DISCHARGED SOLIDS ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of the total amount of solids loading at time t = **197.6** hours as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds on a plan view is presented in **Figures 6-36a** and **6-36b**. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location as presented in Figure **6-36**a. Figure **6-36**b presents a zoom in view of the model results, which shows only **2** km x **2** km area of the seabed. The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids loading on the sea floor in kg/m^2 by a particular color band. The prevailing current direction is to the east. Therefore, the fate and transport of the discharge plume is towards the east only from the discharge location. The maximum loading of **2,165** kg/m^2 occurs at **10** m to the east and **30** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **100** kg/m^2 at a distance approximately **20** m from the discharge location as shown in Figure **6-36**b. It decreases: **100** kg/m^2 to **10** kg/m^2 between **80** m and **295** m; **10** kg/m^2 to **1** kg/m^2 between **295** m and **900** m; and **1** kg/m^2 to **0.1** kg/m^2 between **900** m and 2,**025** m distances approximately from the discharge location. The loading is less than **0.1** kg/m^2 beyond **2,025** m from the discharge location.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **1000**-, **100**-, **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 are: **0.105**, **0.338**, **1.287**, **3.661**, **16.893**, and **129.572** ha, respectively.

Figure 6-36a: Total amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at maximum currents, Burger F

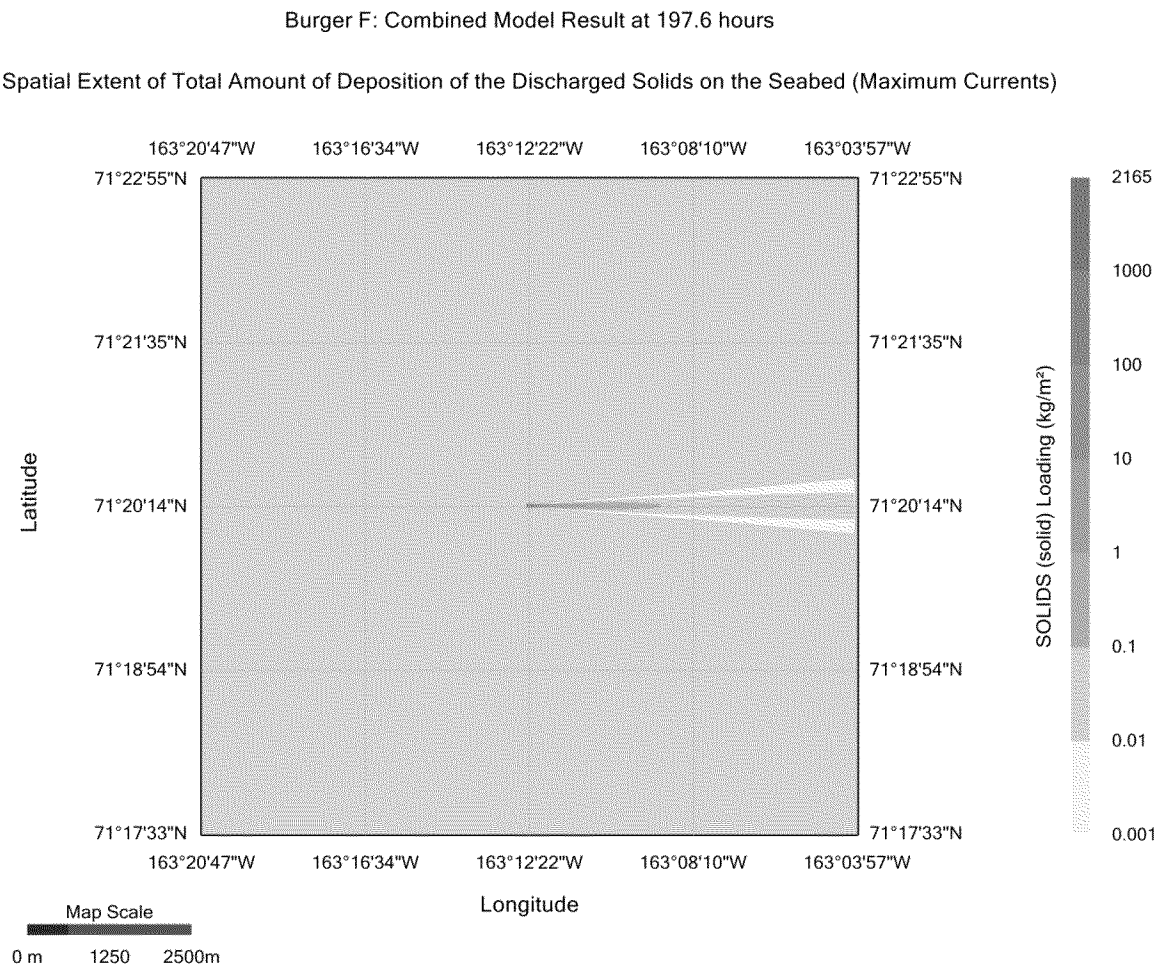
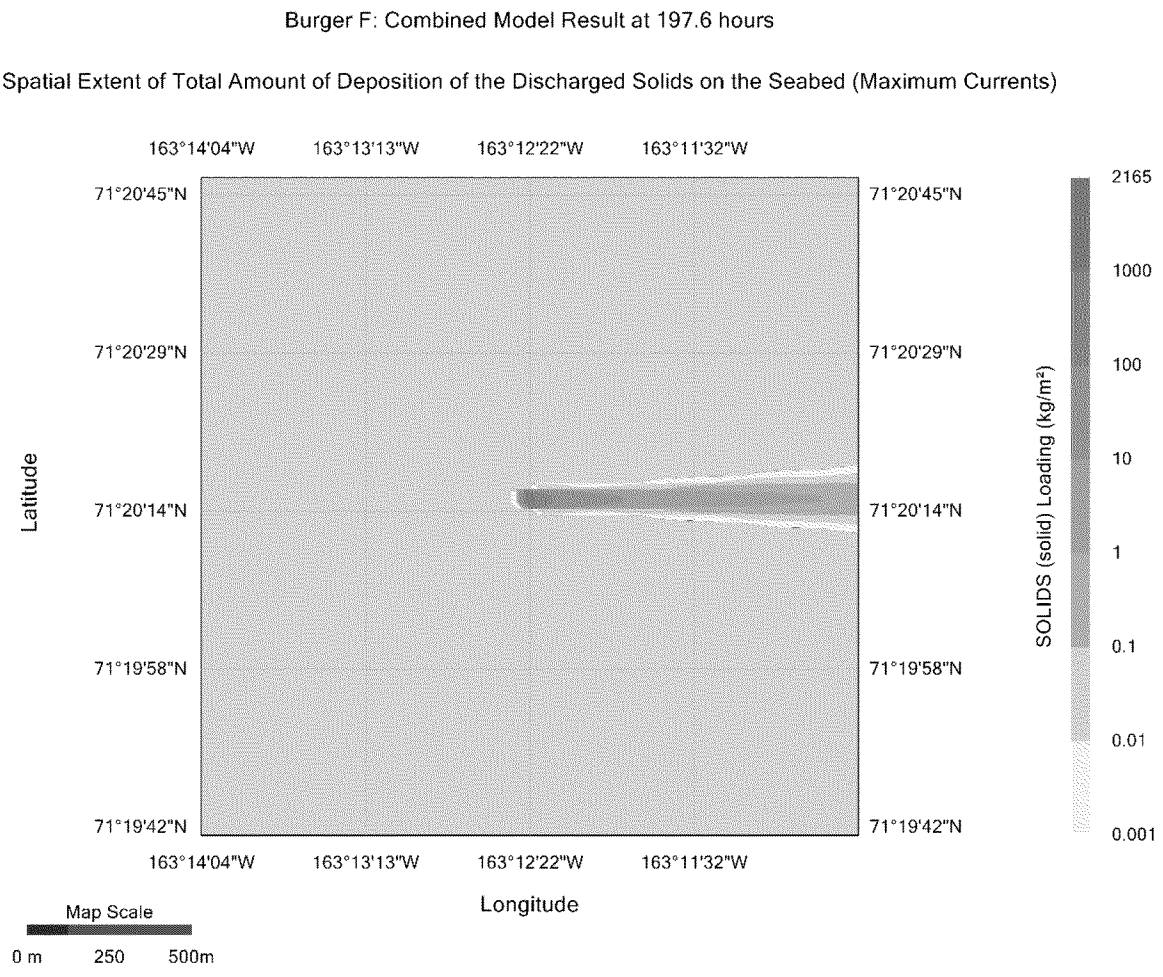


Figure 6-36b: Total amount of deposition of the solids on seabed at maximum currents, Burger F (zoom view)



SPATIAL EXTENT OF SOLIDS THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION ON THE SEABED

The spatial extent of the total solids thickness of **1** cm or larger deposited on the sea floor at time t = **197.6** hours as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds on a plan view is presented in **Figures 6-37a** and **6-37b** The map scale is located at the bottom left corner of these figures. The color bar on the right provides the range of the solids deposit thickness on the sea floor in cm by a particular color band. The model domain extends to **5.0** km in all directions from the discharge location. The solids deposited on the seabed of thickness **1** cm or larger occurs on a small surface area compare to the **5** km x **5** km map surface area shown in Figure **6-37**a. The same result is presented in Figure **6-37**b but shows only **520** m x **520** m seabed surface to show the details of the solids accumulation of **1** cm or larger on the seabed. The prevailing current direction is to the east. Therefore, the fate and transport of the discharge plume is towards theeast only from the discharge location. The maximum deposit thickness of **158.1** cm occurs at **10** m to the east and **30** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **100** cm at a distance approximately **20** m from the discharge location as shown in Figure **6-37**b. It decreases: **100** cm to **30** cm between **20** m and **30** m; **30** cm to **10** cm between **30** m and **67** m; **10** cm to **3** cm between **67** m and **125** m; and **3** cm to **1** cm between **125** m and **250** m distances approximately from the discharge location. It is less than **1** cm beyond **250** m approximately to the east from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **270** m x **40** m rectangle area (or **1.073** ha) as presented in Figure **6-37**b.

The sea floor areas affected by deposit thickness larger than **100**-, **10**-, and **1**-cm are: **0.097**, **0.275**, and **1.073** ha, respectively. The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit thickness is presented graphically in **Figure 6-38**.

Figure 6-37a: Spatial extent of total solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Burger F

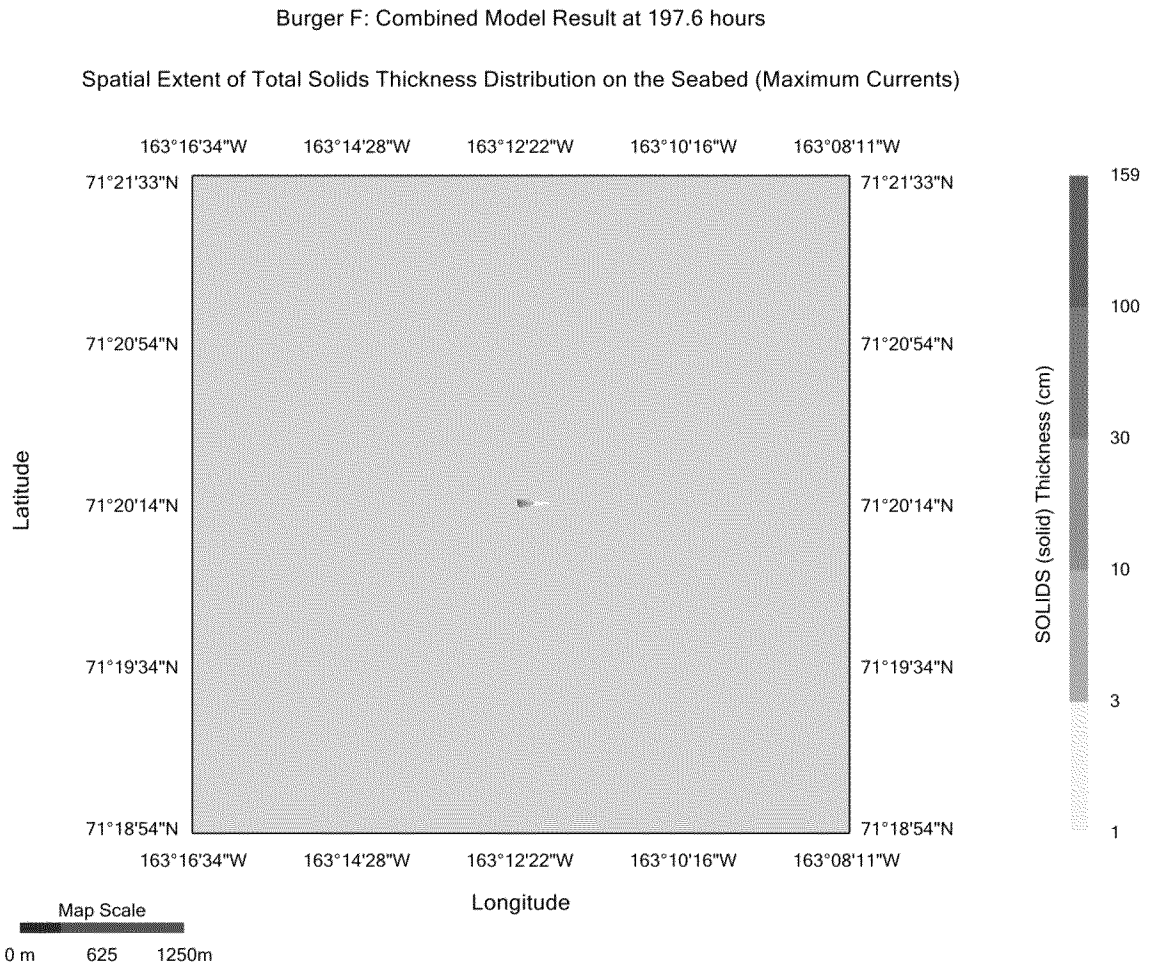


Figure 6-37b: Spatial extent of total solids thickness distribution on seabed at maximum currents, Burger F (Zoom In View)

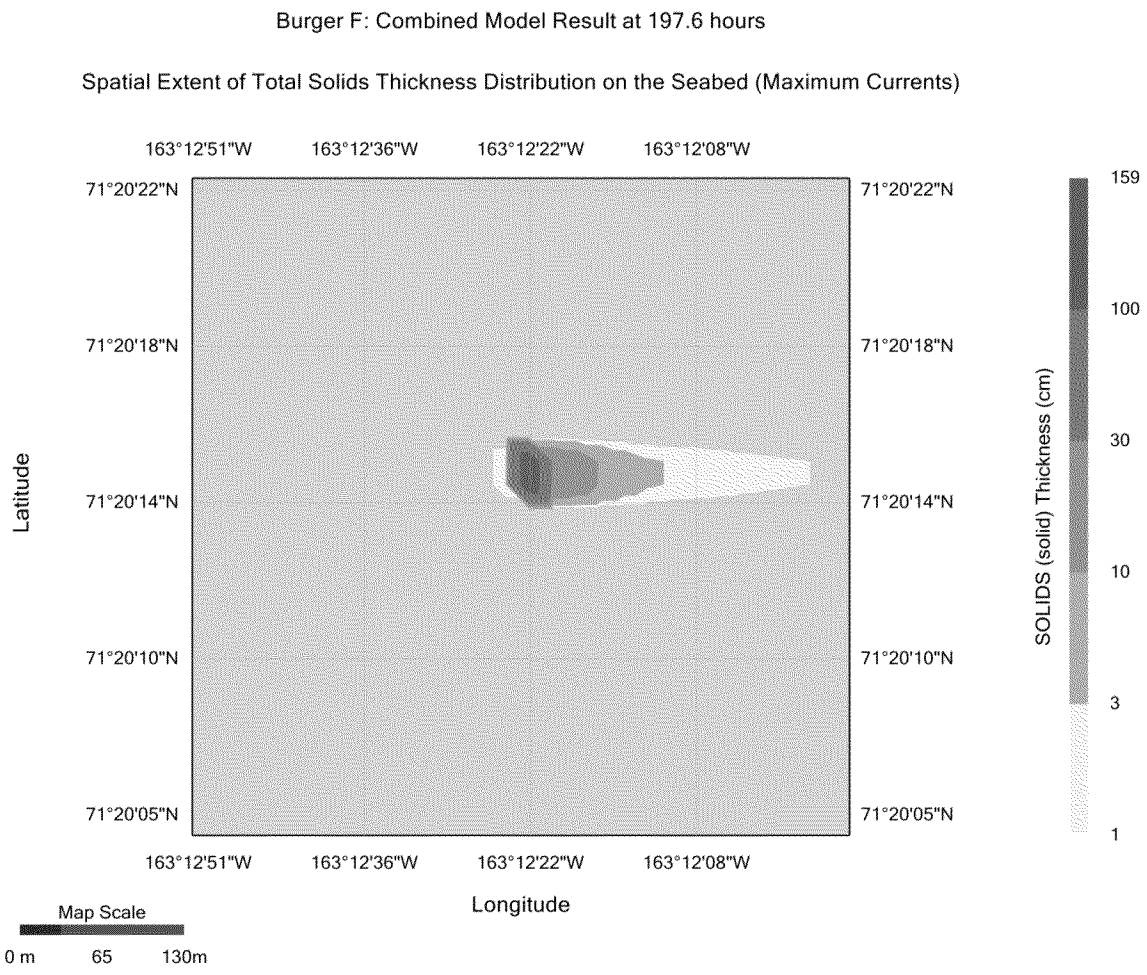
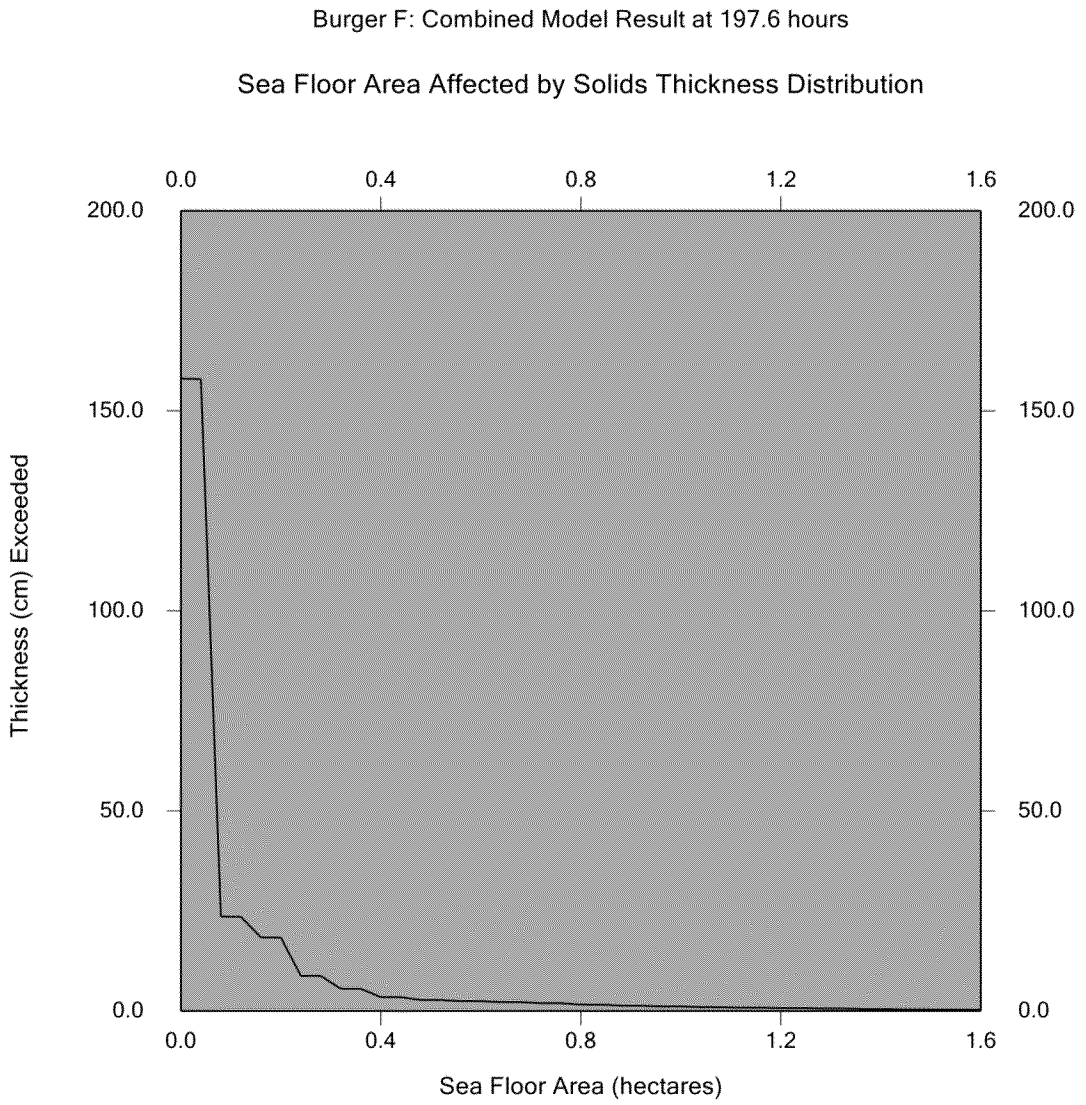


Figure 6-38: Sea floor area affected by solids thickness distribution at maximum currents, Burger F



The OOC model predictions for the solids deposition on the seabed from the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, water based muds discharges from the six discrete drilling intervals and the rig's surface pits at the maximum currents speeds were compiled using the GUIDO **7** software yielding the total solids deposition loading and thickness distribution on the seabed from the drilling operation at the Burger F well site and are presented in **Table 6-2**. The sea floor areas affected at the end of the drilling operation at the Burger F well site by the solids deposit thickness larger than **100**-, **10**-, and **1**-cm are: **0.097**, **0.275**, and **1.073** ha, respectively as presented in Table **6-2**.

The total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column are presented in **Table 6-3**. The TSS concentrations during the drilling operations are: **15.5** to **265.7** mg/l at **100** m; **4.6** to **96.5** mg/l at **300** m; and **0.7** to **31.2** mg/l at **1000** m distances from the source.

Table 6-2: Total Solids Deposition on the Seabed at Maximum Currents

The OOC Model Predictions at Maximum Currents										
Well ID	Discharge Scenario	Drilling Intervals	Durations of Discharge	Depth of Water	Depth of Discharge	Effluent Discharge Rate	Pre-diluted Effluent Discharge Rate	Solids Deposition on the Seabed		
								Total Area (ha) Covered by Solids Thickness Larger than 100-, 10-, and 1-cm			Maximum Deposit Thickness
			Hours	m	m	bbls/hour	bbls/hour	100 cm	10 cm	1 cm	cm
Burger F	Sea Floor	1	66.00	45.00	43.17	68.83	14,000.00	0.087	0.171	0.425	118.40
		2	5.20	45.00	43.17	116.30	14,000.00	-	-	0.118	8.03
		3	34.40	45.00	43.17	86.70	14,000.00	-	0.112	0.247	36.78
	Sea Surface	4	23.30	45.00	6.71	148.38	159.21	-	-	0.565	5.41
		5	29.00	45.00	6.71	69.10	79.93	-	-	0.354	3.83
		6	37.20	45.00	6.71	21.40	32.23	-	-	0.109	1.64
		Rig's Surface Pits	2.50	45.00	6.71	970.80	970.80	-	-	0.412	0.55
	At the end of the Drilling Operation							0.097	0.275	1.073	158.09

Table 6-3: Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Concentrations in the Water Column at Maximum Currents

The OOC Model Predictions at Maximum Currents												
Well ID	Discharge Scenario	Drilling Intervals	Durations of Discharge	Depth of Water	Depth of Discharge	Effluent Discharge Rate	Pre-diluted Effluent Discharge Rate	Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Concentrations (mg/l) in Water Column at 10-, 30-, 100-, 300-, and 1000-m from the Source				
			Hours	m	m	bbls/hour	bbls/hour	10 m	30 m	100 m	300 m	1000 m
Burger F	Sea Floor	1	66.00	45.00	43.17	68.83	14,000.00	1,958.6	738.1	265.7	71.8	11.7
		2	5.20	45.00	43.17	116.30	14,000.00	1,708.9	594.2	211.7	58.7	9.3
		3	34.40	45.00	43.17	86.70	14,000.00	1,092.3	431.6	148.1	42.2	6.6
	Sea Surface	4	23.30	45.00	6.71	148.38	159.21	1,175.2	315.6	95.5	13.1	2.3
		5	29.00	45.00	6.71	69.10	79.93	721.0	199.1	38.4	8.8	1.6
		6	37.20	45.00	6.71	21.40	32.23	200.4	73.2	15.5	4.6	0.7
		Rig's Surface Pits	2.50	45.00	6.71	970.80	970.80	1,806.9	335.1	178.6	96.5	31.2

SECTION 7.0 SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The dispersion and deposition numeric simulations were performed both for the sea floor and sea surface discharge scenarios for two sets of currents speed: mean currents speed and maximum currents speed as listed in **Table 7-1**. This provides a sensitivity analysis of the model results: solids deposition presented in **Table 7-2** and total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in the water column presented in **Table 7-3** to the model input parameter currents speed. It is evidenced from Table **7-2** that the maximum currents speed carries the discharged solids farther from the source and deposits over a larger sea floor area with a smaller peak value compared to those at the mean currents speed. The sea floor area covered by **1** cm or larger solids deposit at the mean and the maximum currents are: **0.519** and **1.073** ha, respectively. Whereas, the maximum deposit thickness at mean and maximum currents are: **196.3** and **158.1** cm, respectively. Therefore, the discharged solids at the maximum currents are deposited approximately over twice the sea floor areas compared to the mean currents but have a smaller peak thickness value.

The TSS concentrations at the maximum currents speed are generally significantly higher than those values at the mean currents speed due to the turbulent mixing at a higher ambient velocity as presented in Table **7-3**. For example, the TSS concentrations at the maximum currents are approximately **2.4** times higher than those values at the mean currents for the sea floor discharge scenario at **100** m from the source. It is **2.4** to **3.9** times higher than those values at the mean currents for the sea surface discharge scenario at **100** m from the source except for the water based muds discharge from the rig's surface pits.

The OOC model predicted fate and transport of the TSS concentrations presented in Sections **5** and **6** by a series of plots for each drilling intervals and the discharge from the rig's surface pits show that the TSS concentrations attain a value of less than **0.1** mg/l at: **5** to **24** hours after the cessation of the discharge during the mean currents and **4** to **6** hours after the cessation of the discharge during the maximum currents. The maximum duration to attain less than **0.1** mg/l of TSS concentration is **24** hours after the cessation of the discharge.

The OOC model predicted water based drill cuttings and drill fluids deposition thickness of each sediment class at the end of the drilling operation at the Burger F well site for both at the mean and maximum currents speeds are presented in **Tables 7-4** and **7-5**, respectively. The drill cutting deposition thickness for all the nine (**9**) sediment classes (Table **3-2**) are presented at: **10**, **30**, **90**, and **110** m from the source of the discharge. These tables also exhibit that the maximum currents speed carries the discharged solids farther from the source: smaller deposition thickness of drill cutting value at **10** m from the source and larger deposition thickness of drill cutting value at **30** m from the source compared to those at the mean currents speed.

Table 7-1: Mean and Maximum Currents Speed for the Burger Field, for July through October

Water Depth	Mean Current		Maximum Current	
	Speed	Direction (from True North)	Speed	Direction (from True North)
m	cm/s	°T	cm/s	°T
0.0	7.0	90	25.0	90
15.0	7.0	90	25.0	90
20.0	7.0	90	25.0	90
45.0	7.0	90	25.0	90

Table 7-2: The OOC Model Predicted Solids Deposition at the Mean and the Maximum Currents Speed

The OOC Model Predictions at the Mean and the Maximum Currents Speed												
Well ID	Discharge Scenario	Drilling Intervals	Durations of Discharge	Effluent Discharge Rate	Solids Deposition on the Seabed at Mean Currents				Solids Deposition on the Seabed at Maximum Currents			
					Total Area (ha) Covered by Solids Thickness larger than 100-, 10-, and 1-cm			Maximum Deposit Thickness	Total Area (ha) Covered by Solids Thickness Larger than 100-, 10-, and 1-cm			Maximum Deposit Thickness
			Hours	bbls/hour	100 cm	10 cm	1 cm	cm	100 cm	10 cm	1 cm	cm
Burger F	Sea Floor	1	66.00	68.83	0.089	0.119	0.274	128.14	0.087	0.171	0.425	118.40
		2	5.20	116.30	-	-	0.117	8.38	-	-	0.118	8.03
		3	34.40	86.70	-	0.111	0.192	38.88	-	0.112	0.247	36.78
	Sea Surface	4	23.30	148.38	-	0.098	0.322	13.54	-	-	0.565	5.41
		5	29.00	69.10	-	-	0.271	8.68	-	-	0.354	3.83
		6	37.20	21.40	-	-	0.187	3.15	-	-	0.109	1.64
		Rig's Surface Pits	2.50	970.80	-	-	0.094	1.09	-	-	0.412	0.55
	At the end of the Drilling Operation				**0.102**	**0.195**	**0.519**	**196.31**	**0.097**	**0.275**	**1.073**	**158.09**

Table 7-3: The OOC Model Predicted TSS Concentrations at the Mean and the Maximum Currents Speed

The OOC Model Predictions at the Mean and the Maximum Currents Speed															
Well ID	Discharge Scenario	Drilling Intervals	Durations of Discharge	Effluent Discharge Rate	Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Concentrations (mg/l) in Water Column at 10-, 30-, 100-, 300-, and 1000-m from the Source									
					Mean Currents					Maximum Currents				
			Hours	bbls/hour	10 m	30 m	100 m	300 m	1000 m	10 m	30 m	100 m	300 m	1000 m
Burger F	Sea Floor	1	66.00	68.83	1,138.3	413.4	103.1	22.1	3.6	1,958.6	738.1	265.7	71.8	11.7
		2	5.20	116.30	913.0	317.5	87.0	18.4	2.9	1,708.9	594.2	211.7	58.7	9.3
		3	34.40	86.70	589.9	223.9	61.2	12.8	2.1	1,092.3	431.6	148.1	42.2	6.6
	Sea Surface	4	23.30	148.38	736.0	196.5	24.2	5.3	0.9	1,175.2	315.6	95.5	13.1	2.3
		5	29.00	69.10	493.4	118.2	14.3	3.2	0.5	721.0	199.1	38.4	8.8	1.6
		6	37.20	21.40	177.4	37.6	6.4	1.4	0.2	200.4	73.2	15.5	4.6	0.7
		Rig's Surface Pits	2.50	970.80	532.6	424.7	219.1	101.3	-	1,806.9	335.1	178.6	96.5	31.2

Table 7-4: Model Predicted Drill Cutting Deposition Thickness at Mean Currents Speed

The OOC Model Predicted Drill Cutting Deposition Thickness of Each Sediment Class Discharge at the End of the Drilling Operation									
Well ID	Discharge Height Above Bottom Depth		Current Speed		Estimated Particle Diameter	Deposition Thickness of Drill Cutting (m)			
	Sea Floor	Sea Surface				At 10, 30, 90, and 110 meters			
	m	m	m/s		µm	10 m	30 m	90 m	110 m
Burger F	1.83	38.29	Mean Currents	0.07	1	0.080	0.003	0.000	0.000
					4	0.066	0.005	0.003	0.002
					15	0.107	0.019	0.005	0.004
					50	0.061	0.007	0.000	0.000
					125	0.031	0.004	0.002	0.002
					250	0.331	0.035	0.004	0.000
					500	0.311	0.070	0.000	0.000
					1000	0.345	0.006	0.000	0.000
					3600	0.575	0.000	0.000	0.000

Table 7-5: Model Predicted Drill Cutting Deposition Thickness at Maximum Currents Speed

The OOC Model Predicted Drill Cutting Deposition Thickness of Each Sediment Class Discharge at the End of the Drilling Operation									
Well ID	Discharge Height Above Bottom Depth		Current Speed		Estimated Particle Diameter	Deposition Thickness of Drill Cutting (m)			
	Sea Floor	Sea Surface				At 10, 30, 90, and 110 meters			
	m	m	m/s		µm	10 m	30 m	90 m	110 m
Burger F	1.83	38.29	Maximum Currents	0.25	1	0.045	0.023	0.001	0.000
					4	0.036	0.019	0.002	0.001
					15	0.065	0.034	0.004	0.002
					50	0.052	0.004	0.003	0.002
					125	0.021	0.010	0.001	0.000
					250	0.295	0.038	0.000	0.001
					500	0.291	0.007	0.038	0.025
					1000	0.273	0.006	0.001	0.000
					3600	0.451	0.085	0.000	0.000

SECTION 8.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The primary goal of this environmental numeric modeling was to simulate the dispersion and deposition of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds discharges from the drilling operation by the drill ship Noble Discoverer at the prospect well site Burger F located offshore Chukchi Sea using the Offshore Operators Committee Mud and Produced Water Discharge Model (OOC Model). The prospect well Burger F is located in block **6714** area of Posey. The depth of water is **45.0** m. The dispersion and deposition numeric simulations were performed for the six discrete drilling intervals divided into two discharge scenarios: sea floor (**013**) and sea surface (**001**). The sea floor discharges occur from the drilling intervals **1**, **2**, and **3** and the sea surface discharges occur from the drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6**. The sea floor discharges occur at **1.83** m (or **6** feet) above the sea floor and the sea surface discharges occur at **6.71** m (or **22** feet) below the sea surface. Moreover, approximately **2,427** bbls of the water based muds will be discharged at the end of the drilling of the well from the rig's surface pits at a rate of **970.8** bbls/hour for **2.5** hours. These constitute discharges described in Permit No.: **AKG-28-8100** as discharge **013** (Muds, Cuttings, and Cements at the Seafloor) and discharge **001** (Water-Based Drilling Fluids and Drill Cuttings).

The cements, water based dill cuttings, and drill fluids mass discharge rate (effluent) for drilling intervals **1**, **2**, and **3** for the sea floor (**013**) discharges are: **68.83**, **116.30**, and **86.70** bbls/hour, respectively. These sediments will be pumped away via use of a pump at the sea floor. A flexible hose suction pipe will intake a large volume of sea water to move the cements, water based drill cuttings, and drill fluids from the seafloor and will discharge from a **12.0** inch internal diameter discharge pipe at **14,000** bbls/hour. This yields into **203.4**, **120.4**, and **161.5** pre-dilution factors before discharging into the ambient for the drilling intervals **1**, **2**, and **3**, respectively. The discharge pipe of the seafloor pump is located at **1.83** m (or **6** feet) above the seafloor and oriented horizontally aligned with the direction of the current, which is to the east.

The water based dill cuttings and drill fluids mass discharge rate (effluent) for drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6** for the sea surface (**001**) discharges are: **148.38**, **69.10**, and **21.40** bbls/hour, respectively. Sea water at a rate of **10.83** bbls/hour will be added to the drill cuttings and drill fluids before discharging into the ambient during the drilling of the bottom hole section i.e., the drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6** for the sea surface (**001**) discharge scenario. This yields into **1.1**, **1.2**, and **1.5** pre-dilution factors before discharging into the ambient for the drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6**, respectively. The pre-diluted water based dill cuttings and drill fluids discharge rate (effluent) for drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6** for the sea surface (**001**) discharges are: **159.21**, **79.93**, and **32.23** bbls/hour, respectively.

The outer diameter of the pipe for the sea surface discharge is **15.0** inches. It runs through the main deck of the drill rig Noble Discoverer and comes out on the bottom of the ship. The drilling draft varies from **6.71** m to **7.68** m approximately. Therefore, the surface discharges occur at a depth between **6.71** m and **7.68** m from the sea surface. The internal pipe diameter of **14.25** inches was used for modeling the sea surface discharge scenario based on a **0.75** inches of total pipe wall thickness. The discharge pipe is oriented vertically downward with respect to the sea surface and discharges at approximately **6.71** m below the sea surface for modeling the sea surface discharge scenario.

The water based drill fluids for the top hole section i.e., the drilling intervals **1**, **2**, and **3**, for the sea floor (**013**) discharge scenario is composed of primarily sea water, which includes **30** lbs. of bentonite, **0.5** lbs. of xanthan gum, and **0.03** lbs. of Gelex bentonite extender in each barrel of sea water.

The water based drill fluids for the bottom hole section i.e., the drilling intervals **4**, **5**, and **6**, for the sea surface (**001**) discharge scenario is composed of primarily sodium chloride (NaCl) brine system. Sodium chloride brine systems are single-salt solutions of sodium chloride and water. Saturated sodium chloride brine has a density of **1,198** kg/m^3 or **10** lb/gal and used as a base drill fluids for the bottom hole section. Barite at the rate of **1.413** lb/gal is added to the base drill fluids to increase the weight of the drill fluids to **1,318.13** kg/m^3 (or **11** lb/gal) for drilling the interval **04** of the bottom hole section. Moreover, barite at the rate of **2.83** lb/gal is added to the base

drill fluids to increase the weight of the drill fluids to **1,438** kg/m^3 (or **12** lb/gal) for drilling the intervals **05** and **06** of the bottom hole section.

The dispersion and deposition numeric simulations both for the sea floor (**013**) and the sea surface (**001**) discharge scenarios were performed for two sets of currents speed: mean currents and maximum currents. This provides a sensitivity analysis of the numeric model results to the model input parameter: currents speed. The current speed of **7** cm/sec was used as the mean value and **25** cm/sec was used as the maximum value in the OOC model.

The solids deposition on the seabed from the effluents discharged during the six discrete drilling intervals and the rig's surface pits were compiled using the Graphical User Interface Discharge Offshore (GUIDO, version **7.3**) software for the OOC model yielding the total solids deposition loading and total thickness distribution on the seabed from the drilling operation by the drill ship Noble Discoverer at the Burger F well site.

The OOC model predicted total amount of solids loading on the sea floor as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds at the mean currents are: (i) **100** kg/m^2 at **50** m, (ii) **10** kg/m^2 at **140** m, (iii) **1** kg/m^2 at **400** m, (iv) **0.1** kg/m^2 at **1,100** m, and (v) **0.01** kg/m^2 at **2,700** m distances approximately from the source towards the direction of the current.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **1000**-, **100**-, **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 at the mean currents are: **0.108**, **0.321**, **0.653**, **4.492**, **17.631**, and **135.616** hectares (ha), respectively.

The OOC model predicted maximum deposit thickness at the mean currents is **196.3** cm, which occurs at **10** m to the east and **30** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **110** m to the east from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **130** m x **40** m rectangle area (or **0.519** ha) at the mean currents. The sea floor areas affected by deposit thickness larger than **100**-, **10**-, and **1**-cm are: **0.102**, **0.195**, and **0.519** ha, respectively.

The OOC model predicted total amount of solids loading on the sea floor as a result of the discharge of the cements, water based drill cuttings, drill fluids, and water based muds at the maximum currents are: (i) **100** kg/m^2 at **80** m, (ii) **10** kg/m^2 at **295** m, (iii) **1** kg/m^2 at **900** m, and (iv) **0.1** kg/m^2 at **2,000** m distances approximately from the source towards the direction of the current.

The sea floor areas affected by solids deposit loading of more than **1000**-, **100**-, **10**-, **1**-, **0.1**-, and **0.01**-kg/m^2 at the maximum currents are: **0.105**, **0.338**, **1.287**, **3.661**, **16.893**, and **129.572** ha, respectively.

The OOC model predicted maximum deposit thickness at the maximum currents is **158.1** cm, which occurs at **10** m to the east and **30** m to the north from the discharge location. It decreases to a value of **1** cm at a distance approximately **260** m to the east from the discharge location.

The sea floor area affected by solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is approximately a **270** m x **40** m rectangle area (or **1.073** ha) at the maximum currents The sea floor areas affected by deposit thickness larger than **100**-, **10**-, and **1**-cm are: **0.097**, **0.275**, and **1.073** ha, respectively.

The OOC model predicted fate and transport of the TSS concentrations show that the TSS concentrations attain a value of less than **0.1** mg/l at: **5** to **24** hours after the cessation of the discharge during the mean currents and **4** to **6** hours after the cessation of the discharge during the maximum currents. The maximum duration to attain less than **0.1** mg/l of TSS concentration is **24** hours after the cessation of the discharge.

The impacts on the ambient from the drilling operations at the Burger F well in terms of solids deposit thickness of **1** cm or larger is limited to an area: **0.519** ha at the mean currents and **1.073** ha at the maximum currents. The impacts at **100** m from the discharge source are: solids deposit thickness in the range of **1** to **3** cm at the mean

currents and **3** to **10** cm at the maximum currents on the seabed. The impacts on the ambient water in terms of the TSS concentrations at **100** m from the discharge source are: **6**.**4** to **219**.**1** mg/l at the mean currents and **15**.**5** to **265**.**7** mg/l at the maximum currents. The impacts at **300** m from the source are: solids deposit thickness of less than **1** cm on the seabed both for the mean and maximum currents. The impacts on the ambient water interms of the TSS concentrations at **300** m from the discharge source are: **1**.**4** to **101**.**3** mg/l at the mean currents and **4**.**6** to **96**.**5** mg/l at the maximum currents. The overall impacts on the ambient from the drilling operations at the Burger F well by the drill ship Noble Discoverer can be classified as low.

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